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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

How worried are you about the entry of the H1N1 virus into the CNMI?

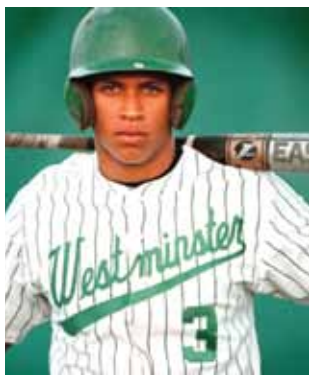
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Flu Tally

The tally of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States jumped Sunday to 245 in 35 states.

NATION...Page 14



New Bio

Journalist Selena Roberts makes the case that Alex Rodriguez likely used steroids in high school.

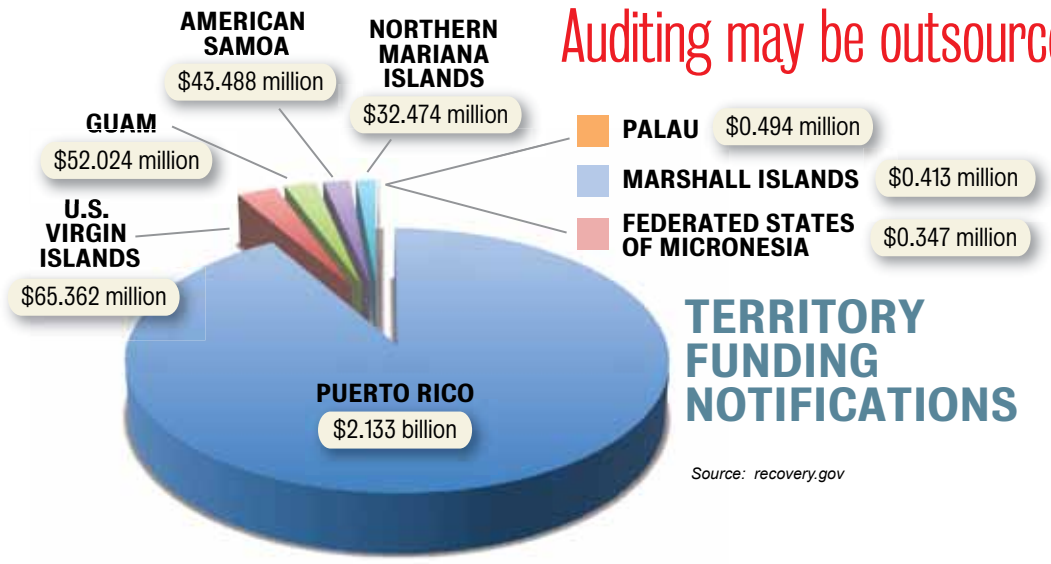
LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

NMI's pandemic alert level remains at Phase 5. **PAGE 2**
Dealers selling more used vehicles than new ones. **PAGE 3**

DUE TO ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES

NMI spending of stimulus funds stalled

Auditing may be outsourced to private sector or done by govt



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has not spent a single penny of the federal stimulus money it has already received or had been notified of receiving because there's no entity yet to audit every dollar spent to ensure accountability, Commerce Secretary Michael Ada yesterday said.

See SPENDING on Page 4

ON CAPITAL HILL HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nikolau Pula, center, acting deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, is flanked by federal and local officials after their meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his Cabinet on Capital Hill yesterday. In photo are, from left, Joseph M. Inos Jr. of the Department of Public Works, OIA policy desk officer Frank Taitano, Pula, federal CIP coordinator Keith Aughenbaugh, and DPW consultant Steve Hiney.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center left, meets with his Cabinet yesterday on Capital Hill. Seated beside him is Eloy Inos, center right, in his first Cabinet meeting as the new lieutenant governor.

Fund: No govt agency remitting to WCC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund says not a single government agency has remitted funds to the Workers Compensation Commission as required by law, and this may be grounds for denial of WCC coverage for any government employee injured on the job.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said the failure of the government as an employer to

See FUND on Page 4

LABOR NOW CHARGES $50 FOR EXTENSION REQUESTS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Kaipat

Unemployed nonresident workers who want to ask the Department of Labor's permission to extend the period allowed them to find new jobs must now shell out $50, according to information posted at the agency's office.

"Effective May 1, 2009 the hearing office shall collect a $50 fee for extension

See LABOR on Page 4

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NMI's pandemic alert level remains at Phase 5

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The pandemic alert level remains at Phase 5 in the CNMI as the Department of Public Health continues to its routine testing to identify flu illnesses.

As of yesterday afternoon, the DPH has found no traces of the H1N1 influenza virus, even as the number of areas in the United States affected by the virus keeps going up.

DPH said it is increasing its surveillance operations because this is a "rapidly evolving" situation and that current guidance and other content may contain variations in how this new H1N1 flu virus is referred to.

Since the CNMI Pandemic Alert Committee and the DPH Emergency Operations Center were activated, there have been two cases of flu reported but Public Health analyst Roxanne Diaz explained that these were just the results of routine flu testing.

The tests have already been sent to the U.S. mainland for further evaluation.

Formerly known as the swine flu, this new illness is now referred to as H1N1 flu.

DPH said its six sentinel sites—CHC clinics, Marianas Medical Center, Medical Associates of the Pacific, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center—have not reported any suspicious 2009 H1N1 flu cases.

"All flu tests in the CNMI are sent for further laboratory testing and confirmation in San Antonio, Texas," the DPH said.

In the past six weeks, hundreds worldwide have been infected by the new H1N1 flu.

DPH said the Commonwealth Health Center has received adequate supplies of medication to treat individuals who have severe flu.

It said that because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it, so the illness may be more severe and widespread as a result.

DPH explained that there is no vaccine available for the H1N1 flu virus at this time.

"The H1N1 flu virus is not transmitted by food. You cannot get this H1N1 flu from eating pork and pork products," DPH further explained.

CLEANUP DAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

May Tourism Month got a head start last week off with participants picking up trash throughout downtown Garapan during the annual Tourism Industry Cleanup Day. Participants started their early morning task last Tuesday (April 28) with a group photo at American Memorial Park, the site of the annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, which is being held every Saturday throughout the month from 6-10 p.m.

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Another NMC chair files 'concern' over hiring decision

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Another department chair at the Northern Marianas College aired "concerns" over hiring decisions made at his department, bringing to four the total number of chairpersons who have filed grievances over the same issue.

Glenn D. Keaton, chair of the sciences, mathematics, health, and athletics department, yesterday confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that he submitted a "letter of concern" to the Office of the Dean of Academic Programs and Services, Dr. Debra Cabrera, last April 15.

Keaton said the matter is being reviewed and addressed at the dean's level and has yet to reach the president's table.

In a four-page document, Keaton cited concerns over the decisions made in the hiring and contract renewal practices at his department where he disclosed that management had interviewed and hired applicants that did not meet the minimum requirements, specifically for the math instructor position.

He also disagreed when management did not renew the contract of the department's biological and health science instructor as well as the continuing vacancy of the natural resources management coordinator position.

For the math instructor, it was disclosed that interviews began on Nov. 21 last year with the expectation that the post would be filled by January 2009.

Of the 10 applicants, four met the requirements and qualifications and were all interviewed. The hiring recommendation from the interview committee was passed to the president's office on Dec. 19, 2008. However, an e-mail from the NMC president to the committee asked that the interview period be extended to two more applicants.

Keaton said that, although the two did not meet the requirements, the committee still conducted the interview and was compelled to include all previous applicants in the second round of interviews.

From the list, the committee submitted six names for the president's selection, highlighting the Top 3 applicants that met the qualifications.

"Yet, the president without consulting the interview committee, dean of academic affairs and the department chair…and without explanation or justification, chose to hire an applicant on the list who did not meet the minimum qualifications," Keaton's letter to Cabrera stated.

'4-year instructor not renewed'

Saipan Tribune also learned that Dr. Elena Alexandrova, a biological and health science instructor who has been teaching as an adjunct instructor for four years at NMC, was not renewed.

Keaton described the instructor as a skilled, knowledgeable, and conscientious person who competently met the NMC mission standards of offering its students quality education.

"Yet the president, without consulting with the department chair, waited more than a week until after Dr. Alexandrova's entry visa had expired to inform the dean of academic programs and services that the contract would not be renewed," Keaton said, adding that the delay was in violation of the instructor's contract and the law.

"This delay not only caused undue and unjustifiable stress and concern for the instructor, but also for nursing students who require for their degree the courses Basic Microbiology, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II, and General Chemistry, which were to be offered in Spring 2009."

This also resulted in the cancellation of a chemistry course, which is a prerequisite to other courses.

Also, Keaton cited concern over the continuing vacancy in the position of a natural resource management program coordinator. It has been vacant since December 2005 and had been identified as a key position at the college. The salary is funded through a federal grant.

The department chair said the delay in the preparation of the contract has resulted in the qualified individual leaving the island after waiting for quite some time.

Keaton said that until the college rectifies and clarifies its policies and procedures and adheres to best practices in hiring and retaining quality faculty, the college will continue to have difficulty in offering its students quality education and will fail in showing a sincere and genuine concern to live up to its motto of "Students First."

At press time, the office of the president has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s questions about the issue.

PSS named ESGR's first-ever awardees

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Public School System was one of 27 employers that received the "Employer Support of the Guards and Reserve" award from the Guam-CNMI Committee of the ESGR. Accepting the CNMI Award from Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino (U.S. Army, retired) and Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Wilson, Deputy Commanding General Army National Guard, U.S. Army Pacific, are PSS officials and Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Commissioner of Education.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System was recently honored for its support of teacher-soldiers during the first-ever recognition awarding rites held by the Employer Support for the Guards and Reserve.

PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, along with other Commonwealth educators, received the award in a ceremony held Saturday at the Guam Marriott.

A total of 27 employers and individuals were recognized and honored for their support to employees affiliated with the U.S. Armed Forces, such as those in the reserves and National Guard.

PSS, with the help of the federal government, has been successfully helping the islands' reservists and returning soldiers by employing them as teacher assistants through the AmeriCorps program.

While helping to improve student learning in the classrooms, these "employees" are also entitled to continue and obtain their degrees in the Northern Marianas College.

According to Sablan, two other CNMI employers got the award: the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Department of Public Safety.

CPA was among the employers who got the highest recognition, according to Rose Igitol, committee member of the Guam-CNMI ESGR.

The awarding is being planned to become an annual event for ESGR.

Crowd turns out for Wellness Family Fun Fair

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Organizers reported a big turnout during last Saturday's Second Annual Wellness Family Fun Fair at the Minachom Atdao pavilion, part of the celebration of Mental Health Awareness Month.

The event was organized by the Coalition of Anti-Stigmas Mental Illness in the CNMI and its community coalition partners. This year's theme was "Live Your Life Well."

Close to 200 participated in the walkathon and other physical activities while over 100 youngsters submitted entries for the essay writing contest.

One of the organizers, Kaye Christian, said the activity's main goal was to heighten awareness in the community of the importance of good mental health practices.

She said alternative stress reduction activities were introduced during the six-hour program.

"Mind, body and spirit for holistic health activities included an essay contest, walkathon, paddling, dancing and Tai Chi," Christian said.

The topic for the essay writing contest was, "What good mental health means to me and three things I do for myself to feel better when I feel unhappy."

Ann Jeline Manabat of San Vicente Elementary School topped the contest in the 6 to 12-year-old category. George Race won in the 13-15 years old category, while Ron Ron Catap of Marianas High School led in the 16-18 years old category. Joe Race triumphed in the 18-and-above category.

Second place winners were Rufina Olupomar of Tanapag Elementary School (6-12), Feng Liang Lizama of Mt. Carmel School (13-15), Maryana Gramlich of Marianas High School (16-18) and Jhoanna Fernando (18 and above).

The student winners will enjoy a day with their best friend at the Pacific Islands Club waterpark while the adult winners will enjoy a day for two at the Hyatt Club Elan.

A special category was added for the second grade entries. The winners were CJ Bernardo and Isaiah Dela Cruz, both of San Antonio Elementary School.

Second place and special category winners won tickets for two to the Hollywood Theatres and a $10 gas coupon from Shell.

People of all ages participated in the walkathon and received "Live Your Life Well" t-shirts that displayed 10 tips for healthy lifestyles.

They later joined the Tai Chi demonstration presented by Barry Wicksman, an instructor at the Northern Marianas College.

Justin Andrew and the Fatuul Outrigger Canoe Club helped in the canoeing activity, during which several people had the opportunity to experience the benefits of paddling an outrigger canoe.

Ellena Sutton and Band entertained and provided dance music for the cha-cha contest. The winners were Paz Younis and Matilde Rosario who will enjoy a day at the Mandi Asia Spa at the Marianas Resort.

Dealers selling more used vehicles than new ones

As automotive sales plunge another 40 percent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Automotive dealers have been selling more used or second-hand vehicles than new ones as consumers tighten their belts due to the recession.

Between January and April, for example, the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association sold only 128 new cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles, compared to 150 used vehicles sold.

In April alone, CADA sold only 33 new vehicles but sold 42 used units.

Latest CADA data shows that the sale of new vehicles dropped by 40 percent in April, from 55 last year to 33 this year.

This brings to 128 the total number of new vehicles sold by CADA members Joeten Motors, Microl Corp. and Triple J Motors during the first four months of the year, a 48-percent drop from the same period last year. Vehicle sales have been on a steady decline since the late '90s.

In April, Microl sold 14 new Toyota units, a 48-percent decrease from 27 sold during the same month last year. Year-to-date sales plunged by 50 percent, from 114 to only 57.

Joeten Motors posted a 45-percent drop in new vehicle sales in April, from 20 last year to 11 this year. Joeten Motors, the authorized local distributor of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia, saw a 53-percent decrease in year-to-date sales.

Triple J Motors sold eight new vehicles in April, the same number it sold during the same month last year. The dealer of new Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda units, Triple Jo Motors' year-to-date sales dropped by 35 percent, from 54 to 35.

Buyers of new vehicles still go for cars, which sold 21 units in April and 76 during the first four months of the year.

SUVs ranked second with seven new units sold in April, and 30 between January and April.

This was followed by trucks with four units sold in April, and 16 in the first four months.

Only one van was sold in April, and six since the start of the year.

Of all the makes and models in April, Mazda3 and Toyota Yaris topped the sales chart with six units each, followed by Toyota Corolla with three sold units.

Two units each of Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry, Ford Ranger, Nissan Frontier and Honda CRV were sold in April.

CADA also reported selling one unit each of Honda Civic, Hyundai Accent, Toyota Sienna, Nissan Rogue, Nissan XTerra, Suzuki G. Vitara, Toyota Highlander and Toyota RAV4 in April.

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EPA officials on island to review DEQ programs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Four officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9's Pacific Islands Office are on island to conduct a mid-year review of the Division of Environmental Quality's programs.

Camacho

Most DEQ programs are funded by EPA.

Reina Camacho, public information officer of DEQ, yesterday said leading the team is EPA's CNMI program manager Michael Mann, who will also hold meetings with officials from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Works and the Division of Energy.

Also on island is Nuria Muniz, coordinator for the 26th Pacific Island Environmental Conference, to conduct site visits for the June 22-25 regional event, and to meet with the Division of Energy representatives.

The environmental conference is expected to draw government officials and environmental leaders across the Pacific and the U.S. mainland. For information and registration about PIEC, visit www.regonline.com/PIEC2009.

DEQ's Camacho said EPA's Michael Lee is also on island to "conduct program reviews for the Non-Point Source branch, Safe Drinking Water branch, Wastewater and Erosion Control branch, and meet with CUC and the Water Task Force."

Lee is the Water Programs lead and Construction Grants Project officer for Guam, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System compliance officer for the CNMI and Guam, and the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure lead for CNMI.

EPA's Pankaj Arora is also on island to conduct a program review of the Brownfields 128A projects/preliminary assessment and site inspection program.

"He will also meet with the Department of Public Lands," said DEQ's Camacho.

A public meeting has been set for tonight at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center concerning the Brownfield project in Marpi, which is being cleaned up of unexploded World War II ordnance. The project has raised concern among residents who oppose homestead development in the area, among other things.

Except for Mann who will depart on May 14, the EPA officials will depart on May 9.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon resumes this Friday

Puengin Inetnon will resume on Friday, May 8, at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. It will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

ERRATUM

The mug shot of Dr. Rita Sablan that was shown on the front page of the *Saipan Tribune*'s April 29, 2009, edition incorrectly identified her as Inos. Our apologies for the error.

FUND

From Page 1

remit its legally obligated amount to the WCC Government Employee's Self-Insurance Fund or the Special Disability Fund has caused a lapse in coverage for government employees.

In a letter to government department and activity heads, Aguon said the failure to pay triggers the application of penalties and interest.

He also said failure to remit the appropriate funds not only unduly "taxes" the private industry, but it is also clear grounds for WCC coverage denial for any government employee who is injured on the job.

Aguon

"Therefore, no worker's compensation coverage exists for government employees' workplace injuries of non-contributing government employers," Aguon said.

If the government employer of over 200 employees has elected to be self-insured, there is a duty to pay into the Special Disability Fund an amount equal to 1 percent of the total salaries paid, but not to exceed $1,500 for every employer.

The budget law showed seven government employers of over 200 employees each, and 30 government employers of less than 200 employees each.

Aguon said government employers of less than 200 employees still retain a duty to obtain WCC policy coverage.

In a phone interview, Aguon said no payments have been received nor policies filed with WCC as of yesterday.

The Fund administrator said the failure to make these required payments forces the private industry to shoulder this burden and acts as an indirect tax on these private employers and carriers.

"As former scions of private industry, the central government's individual decision-makers cannot claim ignorance of this obligation. Prompt payment may remedy this situation, yet does not remove the coverage gap which exists for any current non-payment of this legal obligation," Aguon added.

WCC and the Group Health and Life Insurance Plan are under the NMI Retirement Fund.

LABOR

From Page 1

request per the Employment Rules and Regulations," the Labor notice said, citing Section 60.8 of the regulations authorizing the fee.

The fee must be paid at the CNMI Treasury upon submitting the extension request.

A 39-year-old nonresident worker who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity expressed frustration with the implementation of the fee.

"We're asking an extension … because we want to find new jobs and employers. The fee imposed, though legal, would somehow add to our burden and concerns. The $50 fee for each extension is something we're now thinking about. We want to find jobs because we want to earn money…"

For many years, the Labor Department did not charge any fee for extension requests made and granted by the agency.

The new fee surprised Ronnie Doca, chairman of the United Workers Movement, who believes it would further burden many nonresident workers who are doing their best to find new employers.

"It would be an added burden to the hundreds of alien workers who come to seek for such an extension. …The $50 fee for every extension request is a big amount especially for those who are still seeking new jobs. I hope the local Labor Department would reconsider this," said Doca.

He said that in previous meetings with Labor officials, they were assured of "help and assistance."

"I think this is the right time to memorialize those conversations…because imposing the fee in these very hard times would be a big burden to many of our nonresident workers who want to work in the CNMI," Doca said.

Some 200 extension requests are made by alien workers every month, he added.

Doca said some issues also need to be clarified by the department.

"Does this mean that all requests for extension will be granted provided they pay the $50 fee?" he asked.

Doca's organization has called for a meeting to seek the members' input on the issue and to measure the impact it will have on individuals.

Fee to benefit NMI businesses

Department of Labor acting secretary Cinta Kaipat yesterday explained that they decided to charge a fee because the processing of extension requests costs the taxpayers money and those who benefit from the service should help pay for it.

She said that before implementing the fee, Labor amended its regulations, published the regulations for public comment, and met with workers and their representatives to discuss a reasonable fee.

"The Labor Department allows extensions of time to transfer when a foreign worker has prospects for employment but has been unable to complete the necessary paperwork within the normal 30-day period. This policy benefits CNMI businesses in these difficult economic times but never displaces U.S. citizen applicants because all of these jobs are subject to job vacancy announcements and the preference for U.S. citizen applicants," she said.

As for the amount the department expects to generate from the fee, Kaipat said Labor has yet to map a projection, adding that the amount depends on the number of requests that are processed by the department.

"The fee is for the purpose of meeting the cost of this function [processing requests for extension of time] when requests are made. The fee is not for the purpose of generating a specific amount of revenue," she said.

Labor also does not have any estimate of how many extensions will be submitted, she said.

She said this is an accommodation to businesses that may not be able to complete the paperwork within the initial 30-day period.

"The department enforces the preference for U.S. citizens with respect to all job vacancy announcements. This means that an employer cannot hire a foreign worker until the employer has considered the qualifications of every U.S. citizen who applies. This takes some time to determine if a U.S. citizen is available. If no U.S. citizen is available, then there may not be enough time left for the business to process the application for the foreign worker," she said, adding that it is for this reason that extensions of time are sometimes granted as the circumstances justify.

"It is important to get consideration of all U.S. citizen candidates and it is important that businesses be able to operate efficiently in these difficult economic times. The extension of time to transfer is a reasonable accommodation of these needs," Kaipat added.

SPENDING

From Page 1

"The CNMI is not in a position to mess this up," Ada told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after the governor's regular Cabinet meeting where he shared an update on federal stimulus money spending, reporting and accountability issues.

Ada said he has talked with the Office of the Public Auditor to help put up an accountability process for money received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The government has yet to decide whether to outsource to the private sector the auditing of every dollar spent or do it internally, or both.

But the government recognizes that OPA itself lacks auditors to complete its audits and investigations. OPA is currently looking for 11 staff, mostly auditors.

"We're not going to start spending the money until we set up the accountability process. The government here does not want to be held responsible for mismanagement of the money so we're developing a process," Ada added.

The government is expected to decide on the auditing issue shortly, based on what Ada said is most cost-effective for the CNMI.

"The government can't bear the burden of it all because I can't have people managing capital improvement projects and also managing ARRA projects. That's too much and we don't have the resources," he added.

U.S. President Barack Obama created a Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board made of 11 inspectors general to audit every single dollar provided and spent by U.S. states and territories.

Official notifications

The official website that explains the ARRA, www.recovery.gov, has only reported $32.473 million in funding notifications for the CNMI as of yesterday.

Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands received funding notification of anywhere between $43 million and $200 million. Puerto Rico has the biggest share at $2.13 billion.

Of the eight territories and Pacific islands receiving federal stimulus money, the CNMI ranks fifth in terms of the amount of funding notification, ahead only of Palau, 0.494 million; the Marshall Islands, $0.413 million; and the Federates States of Micronesia, $0.347 million.

But Ada said the website has not listed everything that's already in the bag.

He said the CNMI received notification of some $60 million in federal stimulus money plus $48.4 million in state fiscal stabilization fund, but not everything has been listed online or received yet. He added that the Department of Finance will also have to create separate bank accounts for the money received according to the program it's intended for.

Most or over $18.6 million of the $32,473,926 in funding notification for the CNMI posted online is for the State Energy Program, followed by Title I grants to local educational agencies, and safe drinking water program. There are 24 separate CNMI projects listed on the site.

The CNMI has also submitted its State Rehabilitation Fund application but is now just waiting for the results of talks between the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of the Interior on how to manage the funds for island areas.

NMC students OK Fernandez's accreditation efforts

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nearly a hundred Northern Marianas College students gave Dr. Carmen Fernandez passing marks in a survey that measured how they think she did in working to reaffirm the college's accreditation.

The evaluation, conducted by the Associated Students of NMC, showed all respondents saying they are satisfied with Fernandez's performance in getting NMC re-accredited, according to ASNMC president Ivan Mereb yesterday.

Mereb said the students volunteered to participate in the survey.

Saipan Tribune learned that when the Board of Regents asked each community group in the campus to help evaluate the president, the ASNMC opened a registration desk at Room D-1 where all students could pick up the evaluation forms from 8am to 12pm each day.

Fernandez

Mereb said the results of student survey were presented to the Board of Regents last week.

He said the survey results showed that majority of the nearly 100 participants were in favor of Fernandez's work on the college's accreditation.

The evaluation forms focused solely on the president's accreditation performance, asking respondents to rate Fernandez on how she fared in addressing the standards and requirements set by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

NMC successfully completed and submitted on schedule three accreditation reports in March, October, and April 2009.

The college is currently on show-cause status after it failed to address two ACCJC recommendations relating to program review and financing. The status was issued in February.

The accrediting body is expected to decide in June whether to reaffirm or strip NMC of its accreditation.

Although no written report was provided to the Board of Regents of the student survey results, Mereb believes the oral presentation was enough evidence of the students' "fair and accurate" rating for the president.

When asked how the entire student body views the renewal of Fernandez' contract, Mereb said: "There are those who support the president and there are those who don't…"

At present, Mereb said, the ASNMC is focused on staging a successful Charter Day celebration this week.

Last week, honorary faculty senate president Frank Sobolewski said a similar evaluation showed a "split" among faculty members on how they think Fernandez did in her accreditation efforts.

Fernandez's two-year contract is set to expire this week. The regents are expected to decide soon whether or not to renew her contract.

ACCJC *tells ex-regent* McPhetres *to exercise caution and discretion*

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Now that she is no longer part of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, Agnes McPhetres should exercise "caution and discretion" when talking about the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges president and raising issues against the operations and dealings of NMC, according to commission chair Lurelean Gaines.

In a two-page letter sent to McPhetres on April 14, Gaines also reminded McPhetres of the confidentiality of some of the documents that she had made available to those who should not be reading the documents.

McPhetres

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from McPhetres yesterday but was told that she was not home. Follow-up calls made to her house were not answered as of press time.

It will be recalled that the former NMC regent wrote the ACCJC head last March 27, blasting what she labeled as the "improper" behavior of Dr. Barbara Beno, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges president.

Gaines said it is clear from McPhetres' letter that she is no longer a member of the board, yet the "many attachments" and "recipients" of the correspondences have no official business or affiliation with the college and its board.

"By your own admission [in the letter], you no longer have any official capacity with the college. …There is no indication that you obtained the consent of the college representatives involved in these communications for the disclosure of these letters to the persons whom you copied with your letter…" Gaines said, adding that since she understands that McPhetres served with the commission in the past, she believes that "confidentiality" of the information must be exercised and practiced by the former member.

She said McPhetres—being out of the board—has no position or right to continue to have access to these communications, which she labeled as "highly inappropriate."

"Caution and discretion should be considered in the future," Gaines told McPhetres.

'Show proof'

The ACCJC head expressed confusion over McPhetres' letter, saying the latter made some "derogatory statements" against the WASC president yet it was unclear if the correspondence was a formal letter of complaint.

She said if McPhetres intend to file a formal complaint, it should be addressed to Gaines clearly identifying the issues that embody the complaint.

Also, the letter of complaint must not be copied to anyone who is not officially connected with the college and would not have a legitimate need to be aware of the communication.

In order to investigate, Gaines said the letter must also show, on its face, that it raises serious issues that affect the accreditation of the college.

"By serious issues, I mean that the letter must state facts which, if true, would show that Dr. Beno's actions were improper and that they have unfairly prejudiced the college's accreditation in the past or are likely to do so in the future."

Concrete examples of what McPhetres believes were improper conduct should also be included in the complaint.

Gaines said if McPhetres does not respond to her letter, the case would be deemed closed by ACCJC.

GOP wants 'accord' between primary bets

CNMI Republican Party vice chair Sharlene Babauta yesterday disclosed that it will require all candidates in the primary to sign an agreement that they will give way to whoever wins the primary polls this June.

She said the tandems of Juan N. Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios will face off in a morning meeting today to discuss the agreement.

The two are seeking the party's endorsement for the November election. A primary has been set in June to determine who among the two teams will be the party's standard bearer.

Sharlene Babauta said that nothing so far has been agreed upon by both camps.

"We need to discuss it with them…and we're hoping to come up with an agreement signed by both teams that whoever wins the party's endorsement, the other would give their full support," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She refused to comment on the possibility of the losing team choosing to run as independent candidates.

"The objective of the [face-off] is to make sure that one could get the other's support whatever the result of the primary election will be," she said.

The local party will hold the primary election on June 27. It will not include off-island and absentee voters, mainly due to the cost of sending the ballots to them.

She said since the beginning of the local party's primary, off-island voters were never included. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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Beautify CNMI award nominations deadline on Friday

The deadline to submit nominations for the annual Beautify CNMI Steward and Beautify CNMI Champion awards is this Friday, May 8.

The awards are given out to recognize the individuals or groups who have been environmental leaders during the past 12 months. There are two award categories, the Environmental Steward and the Environmental Champion.

The Environmental Steward award recognizes a person or group that leads the community in activities that help protect our environment in a variety of ways. This individual or group has demonstrated the need to take pride in our islands and to take care of the place we all call home. They serve as an example for others, especially the next generation, to follow.

The Environmental Champion award recognizes a person or group that exemplifies the Beautify CNMI spirit. Those qualities include volunteerism, cooperation, innovation, creativity and the ability to infect others with the Beauty Virus. The Environmental Champion is a role model for others to follow. They bring environmental issues to the forefront of public consciousness. They make things happen and effect change.

The 2007 Environmental Champion winners were Bree Reynolds, Kathy Yuknavage, and Carl Brachear. The winners of the 2007 Environmental Steward award were Adam Sablan and Friends of the Mariana Islands.

The 2008 Environmental Champion winners were Nava Khorram, Marites Castillo, Katie Busenkell and Rose Callier of PAWS, Mike Tripp of Marianas Dive, and Aqua Resort Club. The winners of the 2008 Environmental Steward award were Friends of the Marianas Islands, Marianas Dive, Paseo de Marianas Promoters and Max Aguon and the Pantalon Boys.

To nominate an individual or group, submit a written nomination explaining why that person or group deserves recognition. You can make as many nominations as you like, but individuals and groups can only be nominated for one award category. Nominations must include the award category the nominee is being considered for, a well written argument detailing the reasons why this nominee should be considered, and contact information for the nominee and for the person making the nomination.

Send nominations to Angelo Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com or mail them to PMB 360 BOX 10001; Saipan, MP 96950 or call 285-6462 for more information. ***(PR)***

MMAC SPONSOR NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jack Nardy and David Rosario, adviser and chairman respectively of the Marianas March Against Cancer Committee, receive the giant check worth $1,000 from the group's newest major donor, DFS Galleria Employees Association, represented by area general manager Shogo Ando and assistant manager Ben Babauta.

Winners of Maui Arts Festival announced tomorrow

The winners of the Maui Arts Festival will be announced tomorrow at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

Public information officer Tony A. Benavente said Mayor Juan B. Tudela will be giving out the awards to the winners, who will then go on to participate in the upcoming Maui Arts Festival in Hawaii.

The names of the winners will be announced in tomorrow's awarding ceremonies scheduled at 10am. According to Benavente, all the winners are from Marianas High School.

In other news, Tudela is set to sign on Thursday, May 7, the proclamation for the 85th observance of the National Day of Prayer. The signing ceremony will be held at 11am at the mayor's office.

This event is a collaborative effort by the 1,200 attorneys who are members of the Alliance Defense Fund Organization.

The group advocates the rights of people to freely live out their faith.

It was in 1952 that President Harry Truman first signed into law a joint resolution by the U.S. Congress setting aside a national day of prayer.

The law was amended in 1988 by then President Ronald Reagan, setting aside the first Thursday of May for the annual observance.

On this day, all people in the United States are encouraged to attend church to offer prayers. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

May 2 designated as Silver Banner Day

Mayor Juan B. Tudela signed on Saturday a proclamation designating May 2, 2009, as Silver Banner Day on Saipan, to honor the sacrifices of men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The Silver Star Families of America was formed to make sure we remember the blood sacrifice of our wounded and ill by designing and manufacturing a Silver Star Banner and flag," the proclamation said.

The flag is now being flown at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico, where the signing ceremony was held.

Maj. Greg Sablan received the flag from Tudela right after the proclamation signing.

Tudela said the Silver Star Families of America freely give thousands of Silver Star Banners to the wounded and their families.

Aside from the banner and flag, Tudela noted that members have also provided care packages for the wounded.

The group's mission, he said, is that every time someone sees a Silver Star banner on a window and a Silver Star Flag flying, people will remember the sacrifices made for the nation and its territories. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-011

CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 31 CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 1, SAIPAN CM-NH-0031 (013)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Acting Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Route 31 Cross Island Road Phase 1, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(SAIPAN).**

The project package will be available on or after April 28, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federa Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 15, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 22, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 10,2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 10, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 10, 2009, and must be received no later than June 19, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10 :00 a.m. local time, June 24, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 16, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred **(300) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completino date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction Roads and Bridges on Federal Project, FP-96, or $1,400.00 whichever is greater.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contigent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Tuesday, May 5*, 2009, at *10:00 a.m.* on the application of *PTI Services, Inc.*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *expansion and operation of its call center*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

PSS shows its appreciation to teachers this week

The CNMI Public School System is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week from May 4 to May 8.

The occasion is intended to honor teachers, teacher aides, and instructors for their untiring support and commitment in providing quality education under the CNMI PSS Students First initiatives.

"The perseverance and passion of our teachers in providing effective instruction, and collaborating with parents and our community members have impacted student learning. Our teachers' role in creating a nurturing learning environment and maximizing our children's potential shows that PSS continues to progress in its student achievement and the development of the whole child," said PSS in a statement issued yesterday.

CNMI schools and programs will be honoring and recognizing the teachers' hard work and dedication this week. Each day of the week, teachers will be receiving gifts and treats such as a fruit, card, flower, lei, mwar, and school supplies.

The CNMI Public School System teachers, teacher aides, and instructors strive for excellence and hold high standards on their students' academics and achievements. According to Rota High School principal Sharlene Manglona, "teachers spend endless and countless times with their students to see them succeed." Another principal, Rizalina Purugganan of Koblerville Elementary School, said that "teachers are the heart, mind, and soul of the school."

Cinco de Mayo at Tijuana Mexican Cuisine

Tijuana Mexican Cuisine will celebrate Cinco de Mayo today with a special dinner buffet and margarita night.

The south of the border restaurant's manager, Awie Usudan, said the Cinco de Mayo Special Dinner Buffet is from 6pm to 9:30pm and will only set customers back $12.95.

"We're doing this to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. We are after all a Mexican restaurant and Cinco de Mayo is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, holiday in Mexico," he said.

Usudan said Tijuana Mexican Cuisine will be rolling out a veritable all-star selection of Mexican fare like burritos, quesadillas, enchilada, rolled tacos, tostada, fish tacos, tatemado, carnitas, chili con carne, refried beans, and Mexican rice.

And what is Cinco de Mayo without margaritas? Usudan said the world's most common tequila-based cocktail could be had for only $3 a pop.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Tijuana Mexican Cuisine manager Awie Sudan, right, poses with the restaurant's managing director Daisaku Honda.

CONTACT INFO
Tijuana Mexican Cuisine
Phone: 235-5504 Ext. 125 • 287-7097
E-mail: tijuanamexicuisine@yahoo.com

Located at the ground floor of Saipan Gold Beach Hotel, Tijuana Mexican Cuisine opened earlier this year.

With diners becoming more health conscious these days, Usudan reiterated that Mexican food—with its heavy reliance on fresh vegetables—is always a great option for people looking to lose weight.

Tijuana Mexican Cuisine can sit as much as 60 guests and also has a couple of tables outside for customers wanting to dine al fresco.

For reservations and for more information about Tijuana Mexican Cuisine and its Cinco de Mayo Special Dinner Buffet, call 235-5504 ext. 125 or 287-7097 or e-mail tijuanamexicuisine@yahoo.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Beautify CNMI, PAWS meeting today
Officers and members of Beautify CNMI and animal rights group PAWS will hold a meeting at the Oleai Bar & Grill today, May 5, at noon to plan the third Boonie Dog Show. ***(PR)***

MINA membership meeting set
The 2009 Mariana Islands Nature Alliance general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, from 5pm to 8pm, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion on Beach Road in Garapan. We would like to invite all of our members as well as the public to join us, and learn about the opportunities and challenges facing MINA in 2009, as well as our accomplishments in 2008. ***(PR)***

Live fire releases on Farallon today
The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, May 5, from 10am to 2pm. The Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. For more information, contact the EMO Operation Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF single side band radio on 52050. ***(EMO)***

SSHS reports cards out
To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Mid-progress reports are scheduled to be picked up on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, from 4:40pm to 7pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents/ legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

The Kagman Komunidat Association
is inviting all Kagman residents
to attend a meeting with
Juan Babauta & Galvin Deleon Guerrero
for Governor
for Lt. Governor
May 7th at 7 p.m.
Kagman Community Center
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Juan Babauta (for Governor) & Galvin DL. Guerrero (for Lt. Governor)
JuanGalvin09.com

MVA hosts Marianas seminar, workshop

Over 300 travel agents and media representatives in Japan recently learned destination details about the tropical Northern Mariana Islands during the annual Marianas Seminar and Workshop conducted by Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA conducted the seminars in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya in April 2009 to promote Saipan, Tinian and Rota by introducing new marketing plans, including upcoming campaigns and events.

"The Marianas Seminar and Workshops are an important opportunity for us to meet face to face with the Japanese professionals who sell and promote our islands," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "While industry trade shows allow us to meet thousands of individuals, this seminar also gives Saipan, Tinian and Rota the undivided attention of attendees and allows us to provide much more detail about the destination."

The event covered updates about the market, including flight service trends; MVA's marketing activities, including new flight promotions; and details of various promotional campaign and annual sports events. Updates on new tourism infrastructure such as the Kalabera Cave project and destination enhancements like the upgrades to baseball facilities were also provided. In addition, MVA explained the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program which will take effect on November 28, 2009. Northwest Airlines and Asiana Airlines, which have direct services from Japan to the CNMI, also made presentations.

The event was attended by 152 participants in Tokyo, 91 participants in Osaka, and 108 participants in Nagoya, all cities with direct flights to the Northern Marianas.

Door prizes and complimentary air tickets donated by Northwest Airlines and Asiana Airlines were given as door prizes. Participants came away with renewed enthusiasm for the destination and new product knowledge they can put to use when helping visitors reach Saipan, Tinian and Rota. ***(MVA)***

Above, one happy participant, center, wins a complimentary airline seat to the Northern Marianas courtesy of Northwest Airlines during this month's Marianas Seminar and Workshop in Nagoya.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Right, one lucky participant of the Marianas Seminar and Workshop in Tokyo, Japan, wins a complimentary airline ticket to the Northern Mariana Islands courtesy of Northwest Airlines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB09-DPS-093
Submission/Opening Date: May 21, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"TO CONDUCT A SEATBELT USE SURVEY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Port of Saipan
CAPT. GEORGE F. FLEMING MEMORIAL BUILDING
Phone: (670) 664-3550 Fax: (670) 322-4710
E-Mail Address: cpa.portadmin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
Bid No. CPA SS-09-V

"Sale of Government Property"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is inviting interested individuals or firms to bid on the following vehicle:

2002 Ford Explorer 5WGN 6 Cylinder Engine

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the general information and forms at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan building at the Seaport. Bidders are also advised to inspect the property. All interested bidders should submit bid documents no later than May 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m., to:

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan International Airport
2nd Floor Arrival Building

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union
PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

Frances A. Castro
Chairwoman

Jose I. Sablan
General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has scheduled a meeting for Friday, May 8, 2009 at 10:30 am at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes – February 13, 2009

II. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**
A. Collection Status
B. Financial Report-Monthly
C. Operational Matters

III. **OLD BUSINESS**
A. 2009 Budget
B. Membership Fees
C. Audit Status
D. SCU

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
A. Outstanding Travel
B. Meeting Date

V. **MISCELLANEOUS**

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ **Frances A. Castro**
Chairperson

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 5, 1999

CUC: No power rate cut

Calling a legislated rate reduction as "disaster," the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has warned lawmakers against forging ahead with their plan to lower the cost of electricity for residential and commercial users on the island by an average of 25 percent. CUC Chairman Juan S. Dela Cruz said the proposal would throw the utility corporation back to government subsidy as its financial standing would suffer with lower power rates. Although the reduction stands to benefit residents and business establishments, CUC expects to lose an average of $13 million each year in revenues under the Legislature-dictated policy. "The utility will be bankrupt," said Dela Cruz in a letter to Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, chair of the Senate committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

Envoy sees investment opportunities in CNMI

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda yesterday said the Northern Marianas offers investment opportunities to Filipino businessmen in agriculture, computer and construction. Maceda said former Philippine National Bank Governor Ed Espiritu has also recommended providing privately-funded agriculture development to the CNMI which many locals are not keen on venturing into. Majority of the farmers in islands are Filipinos and Chinese, proof that it is not a popular job among locals. They produce vegetables and fruits sold mostly for local consumption. However, due to the unreliability of supply, many restaurants, hotels and supermarkets import these produce from the US mainland.

May 5, 2000

Teno presses for cleanup of PCB

The Northern Marianas government will demand complete and extensive cleanup of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in Tanapag to ensure safety for village residents, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. "I will not be satisfied until it has been resolved and they have cleaned up the area of contamination," he told reporters in an interview yesterday. The governor, however, expressed relief over the presence of several federal officials who are currently on Saipan to check on the condition as well as conduct assessment study of the northern coastal village.

Lang: CUC officials ignorant, incompetent

Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday unleashed fresh attacks against officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, accusing them as incompetent and ignorant of the laws in administering operations of the government-owned company. Because of potential illegal actions by its board, he sought an investigation by the Attorney General's Office into their policy, practices and performance on the heels of critical decisions approved by directors in recent weeks. In a four-page letter to CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero, Mr. Tenorio said he was disappointed and alarmed "at the ignorance" of some of the members who tangled with him during a recent board meeting over its policies.

May 5, 2003

BoS' stock value lowered to $1 a share

Bank of Saipan's board of directors has decided to lower the value of each share in the recent stock offering to existing shareholders, in efforts to come up with the $2 million in fresh capital for the bank. In his recent report to the Superior Court, bank receiver Antonio Muna said the initial offer of $5.11 per share was reduced to a dollar per share during the shareholders' meeting last April 26. This means that, instead of issuing around 391,389 additional shares of common stock, the total number of new stock shares to be issued would be two million.

CUC board amends Telesource contract

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Board of Directors unanimously approved Friday to amend its existing contract with Telesource, allowing the private firm to use its power plant equipment on Tinian as loan collateral for another project. The board's decision, however, is subject to possible change depending on the Attorney General's final recommendation on the contract amendment. CUC board chairman Frank Q. Guerrero said he personally finds the amendment unfavorable to the CUC but he voted anyway because the AGO would still review it. "It has a provision that requires the AGO's blessing to the amendment," he said.

Island Snapshots

MAY DAY RALLY
These two men hold up a banner as they prepare to march to the American Memorial Park on Friday night from the Garapan Fishing Base.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hundreds of nonresidents light candles to signify hope for a permanent immigration status during Friday night's peaceful march from Garapan Fishing Base to the American Memorial Park where guest speakers addressed the crowd.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hundreds of adults and children march from the Garapan Fishing Base to American Memorial Park during Friday night's peaceful May Day rally aimed at convincing the federal government to grant permanent immigration status to nonresidents. The march started at the Garapan Fishing Base.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Children and adults hold placards and banners expressing their sentiments in support of a permanent immigration status for nonresidents, as they prepare to march to the American Memorial Park on Friday night from the Garapan Fishing Base.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FOOD FESTIVAL
Customers check out the food at the Aqua Resort Club booth during Saturday night's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan. One of the highlights of Tourism Month, the food festival is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The opening night of the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday witnessed hundreds of people converging at the American Memorial Park. Here, a crowd of onlookers watch the main show on stage.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The D'Elegance Café reports brisk sales of its roasted pig during Saturday night's opening of the annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of the Inatuas Cultural Dance group perform traditional island dances during Saturday night's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan. The food festival will be held every Saturday in May, which is Tourism Month in the CNMI.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Tune out, drop out

Students who drop out of school tend not to get a lot of attention. They often haven't gotten much attention in class (when they show up), and their departure often goes unnoticed. So it is noteworthy that Virginia is in the forefront of a national movement to track students most at risk of dropping out and give them extra help.

The Virginia Education Department recently reported that nearly 9 percent of the state's public school students in the Class of 2008 dropped out of high school. In Northern Virginia, Alexandria had the highest rate, 11.1 percent, while Fairfax County, the largest system in the state, registered 5.6 percent. The numbers are significant because it's the first time Virginia could calculate them with any certainty. Instead of using the previous, unreliable method of estimating dropouts, Virginia now counts dropouts by assigning students individual identification numbers that allow them to be followed throughout their school careers. No longer will it be easy for students to disappear or for systems to gloss over their numbers.

Of course, simply identifying students who drop out won't prevent the problem, but it does help schools identify which students are vulnerable and need special interventions. Just as important as who is dropping out—and the students quitting school are mostly poor, minority and male—is the question of why.

That Virginia and a growing number of states, including Maryland, are putting resources into finding answers is an encouraging sign the nation finally may be getting serious about improving its dismal graduation rates. Nearly a third of the country's students don't receive a diploma within four years, and the cost to society shows up in lost wages, increased health-care costs and higher rates of incarceration. No doubt that's one reason that Education Secretary Arne Duncan included $250 million in stimulus spending for school systems to do a better job of collecting the data that are the foundation for reform.

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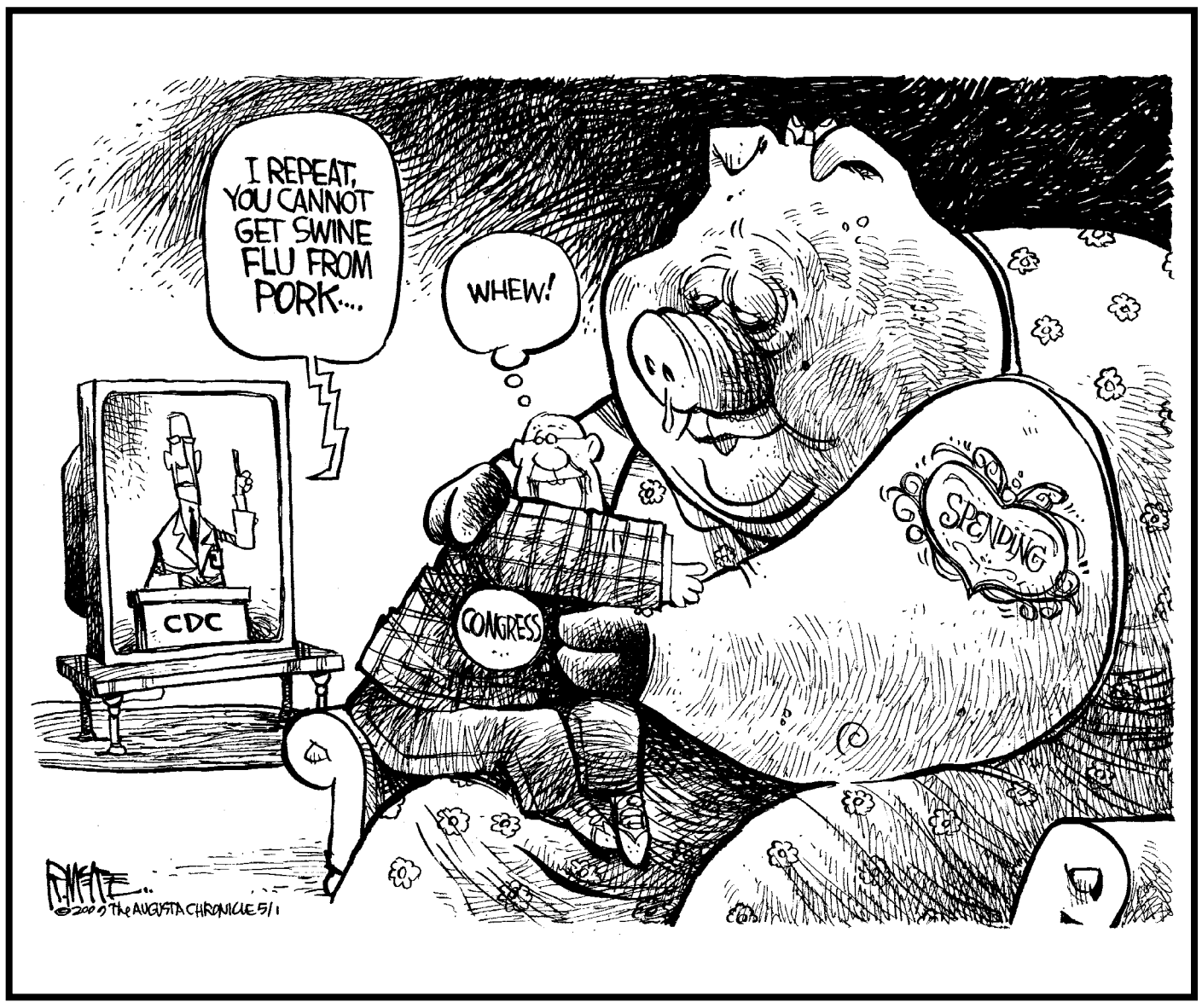


My autistic brother

By NAKITA MARIE P. CABRERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa adai. My name is Nakita Marie Palacios Cabrera, and I would like to share something with you. My brother Nicholas has been diagnosed with autism for 14 1/2 years now. Autism is a very puzzling and painful disorder for parents and siblings to understand and deal with. You reach out with love, and get no response; you are bewildered, and hurt; and you feel completely helpless. Autism, however, is not an impenetrable wall; there are things you can do to reach out to your child or sibling, and ways you can try and help them. But before you can help them, you need to understand what autism is, how it is diagnosed, and how it is treated.

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause for autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today. In February of 2007, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention issued their autism prevalence report that concluded that the prevalence of autism had risen to 1 in every 150 American children, almost 1 in every 94 boys (autism is known to affect more boys than girls).

Each child with autism is unique, with his or her own individual range of symptoms and behavior. Those symptoms and characteristics are failure to develop normal socialization; disturbance in speech, language, and communication; abnormal relationships to objects and events; abnormal responses to sensory stimulation; and developmental delays and differences.

My brother Nicholas did not say a single word until he was 2 1/2 years old, and at 2 1/2 years old he first said "papa," only to not say another word until he was 4. We were very proud of the little progress he had made and excused his solitary habits. Our parents noticed that although he preferred to be left alone to play with his toys, he did glance and make eye contact with other family members and seemed to recognize some of them too.

During my brother's early years, other puzzling and disturbing behaviors changed our family's vague concern into outright worry. For example, his hyperactive mood; his extreme sensitivity to loud noises while in a crowded place; his ability to climb on high places such as kitchen cabinets and closets; and even falling down, scraping his hands and knees, and not reacting to pain. He would, however, babble, shriek, laugh, and cluck his tongue frequently throughout the day. Our parents suspected a hearing problem, or even deafness, because he no longer responded to his own name. They weren't sure about this, though, because sometimes it seemed as if Nicholas would stop whatever he was doing and look out the window or door as an airplane or helicopter flew over our house.

Our parents and other family members bought Nicholas toys they thought that he would enjoy, but he preferred to play with the trains and cars that he already had. He would turn them over and spin their wheels for long periods of time, all the while shaking his hands and babbling as he intently watched them spinning. Sometimes he would arrange them in specific patterns, known only to him, and look at them from different angles. He would also line up his cars and trains by size so that they all pointed in the same direction and would become enraged if anyone disturbed the order while he was away.

My brother Nicholas today is 15 and a freshman at Saipan Southern High School. He enjoys going to school, swimming, taking long walks, and of course admiring the cars and trains that he has collected over the years. He is my younger, yet big brother, and I love him dearly. He means the world to me, and I would do anything for him, even if it means hurting my own self.

As I have learned throughout the years, and with information available from the Autism Society of America and the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, the condition we call "autism" is really one of a set of five closely related conditions. These five conditions, which all share the same symptoms, falls under the broad diagnostic umbrella called "Pervasive Developmental Disorders" or PDD. "Pervasive" means that the conditions affect development extensively and across the board. All of the conditions covered under the term PDD have the same effect on development.

PDD includes the following conditions:

- Autistic Disorders
- Asperger's Disorders
- Rett's Disorders
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD)
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder: Not Otherwise Specified (PDD: NOS)

Autism is treatable. Children do not "outgrow" autism, but studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes.

My parents are advocates, not just because of my brother, but because they are open to advocating for families with children with special needs as well. They have done so much for my brother, and

See AUTISTIC on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A thank you to teachers

By GREGORIO C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the U.S. Congress.

Here in Washington, we talk a lot about education. We debate the best standards and the best tests, the best methods to educate children from cities and the country and from islands in the Pacific. We discuss how much money goes to schools, whether the school cafeteria should serve pizza, and how to make school buildings more energy-efficient. But one thing we don't mention nearly enough is the importance of teachers.

Everyone has a favorite teacher, that one special person for whom teaching was more than lecturing on what the curriculum required. The teacher who cared about your success, whose contagious enthusiasm for learning and passion for the subject matter inspired you and your classmates.

But today it is becoming more and more difficult for teachers to provide that inspiration. Many teach in schools that are literally crumbling around them. Many work with students whose emotional or family problems mean that education takes a back seat to survival. And far too many teachers are working long hours for low salaries, and have to purchase supplies out of their own pockets to help their students.

These challenges and sacrifices are too often unacknowledged. That is why today, May 5, has been designated National Teacher Day, and all this week National Teacher Appreciation week. I, along with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, know that we owe much of our success, our work ethic, and knowledge of the world to our teachers. And it is our wish to say thank you to all teachers.

But beyond a thank you, I also want to promise to be working in the coming months to ease the burdens teachers face every day and make it easier to teach, to instruct, and to inspire. This Congress will be undertaking major reform of the No Child Left Behind Act. When that happens, as a member of the Committee on Education and Labor, I will be thinking not only about improving the educational experience of our students, but also about improving the lives of our teachers.

Letters to the Editor

Missing '60th Anniversary' video

Editor's Note: Because of the length of this letter, it is being published as a four-part series.

First of a four-part series

In June of 2004, the government and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the dozens of American Armed Service veterans who attended the 60th anniversary of the liberation of your islands from Japanese military rule and oppression. The generous outpouring of appreciation by your people, on both Saipan and Tinian, was, I believe, extremely moving and appreciated by every visitor who attended the ceremonies and other observances: the veterans themselves; their families; surviving family and relatives of deceased veterans; and many other "mainlanders" such as myself (a Korean war veteran).

The CNMI's careful planning for the 2004 commemoration was abundantly evident in the quality, coordination, and spirit of the events that took place during its several days, now almost five years ago. Soon, the 65th anniversary will occur and I hope many veterans and other visitors who attended the 60th will return and again feel the warmth and friendliness of your islands' people. I also hope many other veterans, and other visitors, will attend, and that they, too, will form a lasting positive impression of your islands, as did I and all other members of the large, stateside group (Valor Tours) with which I traveled.

For the veterans and others, one of the 60th anniversary's most memorable and poignant events was the "Campfire Chat" that took place on the evening of June 14, at the American Memorial Park. It was attended by an estimated 200 CNMI citizens, including several local, Commonwealth, and other officials, and by dozens or score of visiting mainlanders. They listened intently as numerous U.S. veterans of the Mariana campaign spoke extemporaneously—each in turn, usually for a few minutes, and from the heart—about their personal experiences during those horrendous and tragic days and nights of fighting in 1944. Many also described their present feelings about World War II, about its overall struggle for Saipan, Tinian, and Guam in particular, and about what their experiences during that struggle came to mean in their lives. In several cases it clearly took a good deal for them to express what they did, and to even speak at all. At least one spouse of a then-recently deceased campaign veteran spoke well, about what her husband's feelings and hopes had been. In addition, two now-elderly Saipanese women—Vickie Vaughan being one—gave heartrending accounts of what they, their families, and many others personally endured in June/July of 1944. Even a Japanese soldier who had survived the campaign traveled from his country for the event, and spoke via a translator.

In all, the Campfire Chat was an extraordinary and moving event. Fortunately, the 60th anniversary's planners had the foresight to arrange for it and other events to be captured in ways that could become permanent records. The record of this event would provide a perspective on the Marianas' ultimately victorious struggle, as described in public by numerous individuals who had personally experienced its intensity. Like the records of various other "60th" events, it would also be made available for the benefit of persons who might wish to obtain it.

Specifically, either the entire, two-hour Campfire Chat or large portions of it would be recorded live, on film, and this film would then be made into either a DVD or VHS. (To simplify, I'll usually just use "video.") I was present throughout the event and watched the filming (which was made possible by bright, directional lighting) from the front row of the grandstand benches. It was from the first few rows that the Mariana campaign veterans and others spoke, using handheld microphones. The documentary/ archival purpose of the filming stated at the outset; it was also then mentioned, I believe, that the filming would be done by students from the Northern Mariana College media (film) department; and the audience was given the impression that a resulting video would eventually become available. During the next few days several veterans, their relatives, and other visitors with whom I and others spoke expressed a definite interest in eventually obtaining, that is, purchasing, a copy of what had been filmed—obtaining it for personal use and for sharing with family and friends, including other veterans.

I provided such detail because nearly five years have passed since the 60th anniversary commemoration, yet no one that I and others know seems to have any idea as to whether a video of the Campfire Chat exists anywhere but remains unavailable for some reasons—or was ever even compiled and otherwise prepared in the first place. Nor has any footage of this event been seen elsewhere, for instance as a segment within some other video of "60th" events. Chief among the "no one that I…know," either directly or via the "mainlander" mentioned next, are three long-time residents of Saipan and one of Tinian. Three of these four were integrally involved in either the planning and implementation of the 60th or in direct presentations during it, and each one has long been active in CNMI events and civic matters.

I and a mainlander, Gary Boothe—who resides in South Dakota and attended the Campfire Chat, and who spent several of his boyhood years living on Saipan—asked those four individuals to help us locate a video of the intended documentary material, and to determine if one ever even existed. Toward those ends, and for well over the past year, Mr. Boothe has exchanged numerous e-mails with each individuals and I have communicated with some of them via phone and letter. We also directly contacted the American Memorial Museum, on Saipan and the CNMI Division of Historical Preservation (Department of Community and Cultural Affairs). Both of them told us they neither possess nor have ever seen any video of the event in question, and do not know if one exists.

To be continued.

Ted Palmer, Ph.D.
Sacramento, Calif., USA

Prostitution in Western Garapan

I am seeking assistance from the public and the government to eradicate the problem of prostitution on Saipan. Last year, on Dec. 4, 2008, Rep. Joseph C. Reyes highlighted the problem of prostitution, specifically in Western Garapan's Hotel Street. Congressman Reyes was requesting DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela to dig deeper into the problem to determine whether someone was behind the proliferation of prostitutes and illegal taxicabs' operations.

Presently, prostitution and illegal cabs are rampant. I work on Hotel Street from 8pm to 4am or sometimes 6am. I have seen and reported a lot of illegal prostitution activities and illegal taxi operation in the area to DPS. The department has been replying to me that it is not important.

This is how prostitution operates: The prostitutes would wait outside a DVD establishment. They would ask customers walking by if they want a massage. Once inside the massage business establishment, they would negotiate and solicit sex from the customers instead of massage. Later you would see the prostitute and customers exit the business establishment. They would ride in a tinted car to the hotel or apartment of the prostitutes to do their illegal activities.

These business establishments are supposed to be selling DVDs, not promoting prostitution. On Thursday during the Street Market, children would witness some of these illegal activities. What kind of image are we portraying to our youths? Are we saying that illegal prostitution is accepted in our community and that there is no law to enforce this kind of behavior? Let's all work together if we want our community to be safe and to eradicate illegal prostitution on Saipan. Government agencies, including DPS, Labor and Immigration, the Attorney General's Office, Public Health and the community must all work as a team to effectively combat and eliminate prostitution once and for all in our community. This will improve the image of our island to the visitors and tourist alike.

Phil Kalen
Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

A challenge

We would like to challenge Bonnie Sagana, Rabby Syed and Ronnie Docca on their request for amnesty for illegal overstayers in the CNMI. First, they are asking Washington Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan to help freeze the deportation of illegal overstayers until they get all their back wages and all the items in their Labor awards are fulfilled, including granting of employment transfers.

Our challenge is, if our government comes up with approximately almost $6 million in unpaid labor awards, will they agree to return to their homeland, since this is what they are bargaining and complaining about, completely ignoring the fact that the federal government had already addressed this matter back in March 2009?

As for job transfers, we believe that the Department of Labor has been authorizing transfers since the amendments of Public Law 15-108 were made. We believe their complaints of job transfers are without merits since they now claim amnesty for overstayers in the CNMI. How is it possible to ask for transfer when one has overstayed?

This is why we continue to say that this foreign organizations are misleading and giving false hopes to innocent nonresident guest workers in the CNMI, including IRs. No one wants to admit that, because of such misleading information and promises, majority of innocent guest workers are now affected. Taotao Tano firmly believes that if anyone has lived here 10, 15, 20 years, then there really shouldn't be any problems going through the federal immigration administrative process.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

AUTISTIC

From Page 10

other families and children, and I admire them for it. They do so much to make sure these children are treated equally and respectfully just as you and I are.

It is to your advantage, and to your child's advantage, for you to learn how to effectively practice all types of advocacy. Remember, as the expert on your child and his or her needs, you are in the best and most knowledgeable position to explain these problems to people who can help. If *you* don't speak up on your child's behalf, who will?

Nakita Marie P. Cabrera is a 17-year-old student at Mount Carmel School and resides in San Vicente, Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

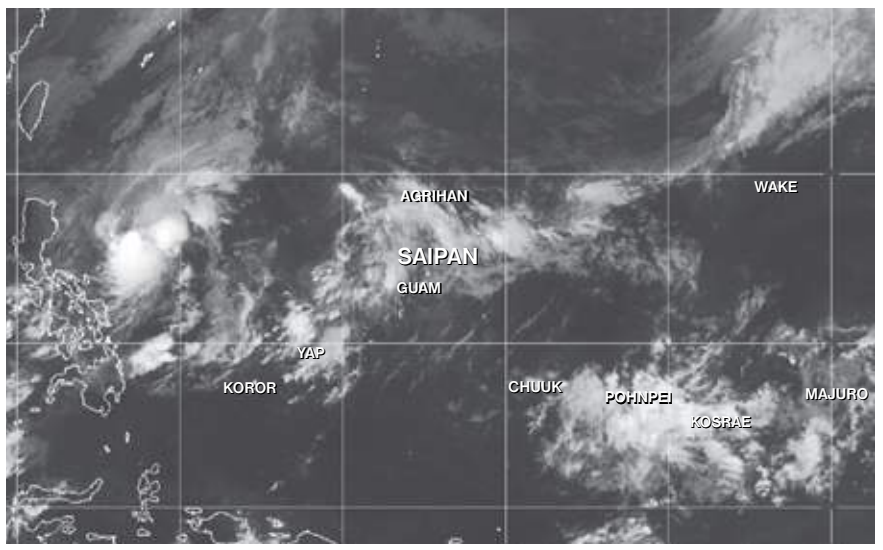
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Yap	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲81	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲62	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼57
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼59
Manila	Rain	▲82	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼74
New York	Rain	▲62	▼50
Osaka	Showers	▲70	▼55
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼45
Pusan	Cloudy	▲77	▼58
Rome	Showers	▲71	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲66	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼52
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Washington, DC	Rain	▲64	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Kujira is centered east of the Philippines at 15N126E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found west of a line from 16N130E to 10N133E. For more detailed information, see JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A weak circulation northwest of Guam is located at 17N140E with a trough expanding southeastward to 10N144E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 8N and 11N from 134E to 139E. This area includes Yap. Also between 9N and 18N from 139E to 144E. This area includes Guam. Another weak circulation is situated northeast of Saipan at 10N152E with a trough extending northeastward to another circulation at 25N160E. Scattered light showers are occurring within 100 miles of the trough axis. A surface trough east of Chuuk runs from 4N152E to 10N154E. Low-level winds converging east of the this boundary is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 153E to 163E. This area includes Pohnpei and Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Majuro between 2N and 10N from 168E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:45 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:25 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
5:19 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:11 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:12 PM	2:45 AM
Wednesday	4:04 PM	3:24 AM
Thursday	4:56 PM	4:03 AM
Friday	5:50 PM	4:43 AM
Saturday	6:44 PM	5:26 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Fiat eyes new company with GM Europe, Chrysler

ROME (AP)—Fiat Group SpA confirmed Sunday it was in talks to acquire General Motor's European operations with the aim of possibly creating a new company to also include its newly acquired Chrysler automaker.

Combined, the new automaker would have euro80 billion ($105 billion) in annual revenues, Fiat said in a statement.

Fiat said it was evaluating the possible spinoff of its auto business to form the core of the new company. Fiat Group Automobiles includes the Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Ferrari brands.

The statement was issued on the eve of a meeting in Berlin between Fiat Group CEO Sergio Marchionne and the German economy and foreign ministers to discuss Fiat's offer for GM's German unit, Opel.

GM Europe also includes the British company Vauxhall and the Swedish carmaker Saab.

AP

In this Sept. 23, 2008 file photo, the emblem of Fiat is pictured on a commercial vehicle at the 62st IAA International Motor Show Commercial Vehicles in Hanover, northern Germany.

GM has been trying to find investors for its noncore and unprofitable assets as part of a restructuring in which it has sought billions of dollars in aid from the U.S. government to avert collapse.

Opel has said it needs euro3.3 billion ($4.3 billion) to get through the economic crisis. The German government has said it doesn't foresee giving direct state aid. Chancellor Angela Merkel has suggested the government could help an Opel investor with loan guarantees.

Fiat said that over the next few weeks, Marchionne will be looking "to assess the viability of a merger of the activities of Fiat Group Automobiles (including the interest in Chrysler) and General Motors Europe into a new company."

"As part of this process, the group would evaluate several corporate structures, including the potential spinoff of Fiat Group Automobiles and the subsequent listing of a new company which combines those activities with the activities of General Motors Europe."

In an interview Sunday with Corriere della Sera, Fiat Chairman Luca Cordero di Montezemolo called GM's Opel an "ideal partner" and a possible takeover by Fiat an "extraordinary opportunity."

Fiat is not the only suitor for Opel, however. Last week, Canadian car parts maker Magna International Inc. presented German Economy Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg with what the minister called a "rough concept for a commitment with Opel."

Guttenberg has said the German government would wait to determine its role in any full or partial Opel sale until after the U.S. government had weighed in.

Fiat, meanwhile, has pressed ahead with a takeover of Chrysler, with attorneys for the U.S. auto manufacturer saying the company would file a motion to sell substantially all of its assets to the Italian automaker

In addition to Fiat Group Automobiles, the Fiat Group also includes its agricultural vehicles branch CNH and its Iveco trucking unit, as well as a media arm.

Asia urged to rethink growth policies amid crisis

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Asia's governments must spend more on social safety nets and reduce their reliance on export-driven growth as they grapple with an economic meltdown that will keep tens of millions trapped in poverty, finance officials said Sunday.

Japan, meanwhile, said it will make 6 trillion yen ($60.5 billion) available for currency swaps, giving nations with weaker currencies access to yen in a funding crisis. And finance ministers from Southeast Asia along with Japan, China and South Korea agreed to set up a $120 billion pool of emergency funds.

Faced with the worst global slump since World War II, many of Asia's economies are in free fall as demand for their exports—long the engine of the region's growth—evaporates in big Western markets.

The Asian Development Bank, holding its annual meeting in Bali, Indonesia, has warned that 61 million people will remain trapped in extreme poverty this year because of the global slump. That figure could increase to nearly 160 million if slow growth continues next year, it said.

The bank's president, Haruhiko Kuroda, said the collapse in global trade has "gathered momentum" as export markets suffer a massive contraction.

"This grave situation needs more vigorous and concerted efforts by all concerned to bring growth in the region back," he said.

Some governments in Asia—Japan and China among them—are already blasting their economies with hundreds of billions of dollars in stimulus spending. But it is too early to say whether this pump-priming is working, while many other governments in the region are too poor to fund such largesse.

"Asian countries must restructure their economies and focus more on domestic demand," Japanese Finance Minister Kaoru Yosano told the annual meeting.

"The Asian region needs to prop up domestic demand to avoid economic meltdown," said Yosano, also a governor of the ADB, to which Japan is a major donor.

Ethanol test for Obama on climate change, science

AP

In this April 7, 2007 file photo, an E-85 fuel pump sits ready for its next customer in Springfield, Ill.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's commitment to take on climate change and put science over politics is about to be tested as his administration faces a politically sensitive question about the widespread use of ethanol: Does it help or hurt the fight against global warming?

The Environmental Protection Agency is close to proposing ethanol standards. But two years ago, when Congress ordered a huge increase in ethanol use, lawmakers also told the agency to show that ethanol would produce less pollution linked to global warming than would gasoline.

So how will the EPA define greenhouse gas emissions from ethanol production and use? Given the political clout of farm interests, will the science conflict with the politics?

Environmentalists, citing various studies and scientific papers, say the agency must factor in more than just the direct, heat-trapping pollution from ethanol and its production. They also point to "indirect" impacts on global warming from worldwide changes in land use, including climate-threatening deforestation, as land is cleared to plant corn or other ethanol crops.

Ethanol manufacturers and agriculture interests contend the fallout from potential land use changes in the future, especially those outside the United States, have not been adequately proven or even quantified, and should not count when the EPA calculates ethanol's climate impact.

"It defies common sense that EPA would publish a proposed rule-making with harmful conclusions for biofuels based on incomplete science and inaccurate assumptions," complained Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Times Co., Boston Globe unions discuss concessions

BOSTON (AP)—Labor union leaders at *The Boston Globe* continue to meet with representatives of the newspaper's owner, The New York Times Co., about contract concessions management says are needed to keep the Globe running. A Boston Newspaper Guild spokesman says the talks are expected to last late into Sunday night. Discussions started around noon. The Boston Newspaper Guild is the Globe's largest union. It says in a statement released Sunday morning the deep cuts in workers' pay and benefits it's offering should be more than enough to save the newspaper. It says the union is confident the Times Co. is committed to reaching an agreement. The Times Co. set a deadline of midnight Sunday for unions to make $20 million in concessions. It has said it would close the Globe unless concessions are made.

Oil hovers at $53 as traders eye possible recovery

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $53 a barrel Monday in Asia as investors looked to U.S. bank stress test results and April unemployment data this week for signs the worst of the recession is over. Benchmark crude for June delivery was up 11 cents to $53.31 a barrel by midday in Singapore, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Friday rose $2.08 to settle at $53.20. A consensus is growing among traders that perhaps the global economy, led by the U.S., has bottomed and turned the corner toward a recovery. Since March 9, the Dow Jones industrials are up 25.4 percent and the Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 29.7 percent. Asian stock markets also advanced Monday.

Asian stocks rise on US hopes; Taiwan jumps 6 pct

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Asian stock markets rose Monday on optimism about emerging strength in the U.S. economy and easing fears about swine flu. Taiwan's market led the region on hopes for improved business ties with China. The benchmark index surged 360.77 points, or 6 percent, to 6,353.38, building on strong gains last week, when the island's government decided to allow mainland institutional investors to invest in the Taiwan stock market. South Korea's Kospi index rose 1.6 percent to its highest level this year, led by gains in local banks including KB Financial Group, the holding company for top South Korean lender Kookmin Bank.

Economy buffeting student pilots, flight schools

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Ivan Nogalo can often hear small planes buzzing over his machine shop in Cleveland. "You want to be up there," the 33-year-old said.

But Nogalo can't be. The would-be pilot has been grounded because the economy has forced him to tighten his belt.

It's the same for Ryan Fisher, who spent an estimated $10,000 on flying lessons before losing his job with a real estate developer. The 37-year-old was two weeks short of being certified as a private pilot when he couldn't afford further training.

"It's frustrating," said Fisher, of Cleveland Heights. "I miss being up in the airplane, that sense of freedom. It's kind of transcendental."

The slumping economy has forced some student pilots to put their dreams of flying on hold, threatened to accelerate the decline of the U.S. pilot population, and put a financial chokehold on flight schools.

The number of U.S. pilots has fallen more than 25 percent from a 1980 peak of about 827,000 to about 590,000 at the end of 2008, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

While there are no more recent figures, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association is seeing some anecdotal evidence that the economy is taking a toll, said Chris Dancy, spokesman for the Frederick, Md.-based organization.

"Flight training is done with disposable income," Dancy said. "It is very common in economic down times for flight training to fall off."

Nation

US flu tally jumps to 245 as labs catch up

NEW YORK (AP)—The tally of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States jumped Sunday to 245 in 35 states, but officials said that's largely from catching up on a backlog of lab tests rather than a sudden spurt in new infections.

The new count reflects streamlining in federal procedures and the results of tests by states, which have only recently begun confirming cases, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Because states are now contributing their results, and because there are many cases to analyze, "I expect the numbers to jump quite a bit in the next couple days," she told reporters Sunday.

Beyond eating into the backlog, the new number also reflects that "we do think this virus is fairly widespread," she said.

"Virtually all of the United States probably has this virus circulating now. That doesn't mean that everybody's infected, but within the communities, the virus has arrived."

Early Sunday, the CDC updated its number to 226 cases in 30 states, up from 160 in 21 states. Later, five more states reported confirmed cases, and new illnesses elsewhere were added to the tally.

Mexico's health secretary said Sunday that his country's outbreak is "now in its declining phase," but Schuchat noted that the United States got off to a later start. "We believe we are just in the upswing here," she said.

Scientists are still gathering information on how severe the nation's 30 hospitalized cases are, she said. They are mostly older children and young adults, in contrast to ordinary flu, which tends to send the elderly and very young to the hospital, Schuchat said.

The only swine flu death in the U.S. is that of a Mexican toddler who was visiting Texas.

Local authorities announced more school closings Sunday, including all 24 schools in a district west of Detroit after a high school student came down with an apparent case of the illness.

On Sunday's talk shows, U.S. health officials said they were cautiously optimistic that the swine flu isn't as dangerous as first feared, but urged people to keep taking commonsense precautions. They said they can't predict if the virus will roar back in the fall.

"The good news is when we look at this virus right now, we're not seeing some of the things in the virus that have been associated in the past with more severe flu. That's encouraging, but it doesn't mean we're out of the woods yet," said Dr. Richard Besser, acting CDC chief.

AP

Gov. Bobby Jindal announces Sunday May 3, 2009, in Baton Rouge, La. that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed seven cases of swine flu in three south Louisiana parishes.

John Edwards faces federal investigation

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—His once-prominent political career is buried and the turmoil of his marriage is playing out in public. Now, John Edwards is facing a federal inquiry.

The two-time Democratic presidential candidate acknowledged Sunday that investigators are assessing how he spent his campaign funds—a subject that could carry his extramarital affair from the tabloids to the courtroom. Edwards' political action committee paid more than $100,000 for video production to the firm of the woman with whom Edwards had an affair.

The former North Carolina senator said in a carefully worded statement that he is cooperating.

"I am confident that no funds from my campaign were used improperly," Edwards said in the statement. "However, I know that it is the role of government to ensure that this is true. We have made available to the United States both the people and the information necessary to help them get the issue resolved efficiently and in a timely matter."

While Edwards focused his comment on campaign funds, he also had a range of other fundraising organizations—including two nonprofits and a poverty center at his alma mater—that have come under scrutiny.

Chief among them was the PAC that paid Rielle Hunter's company for several months in 2006 for Web videos that documented Edwards' travels and advocacy in the months leading up to his 2008 presidential campaign. The committee also paid her firm an additional $14,086.50 on April 1, 2007.

Edwards acknowledged the affair with Hunter last year, months after dropping his presidential bid.

Senators: Pick next justice from outside judiciary

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's search to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice David Souter should extend beyond the current roster of federal judges, senators from both political parties said Sunday.

"I would like to see more people from outside the judicial monastery, somebody who has had some real-life experience, not just as a judge," said Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee that will hold hearings when Obama makes his nomination.

Noting that all nine justices came directly from the federal appeals court, senators on the committee said someone with a wider breadth of experience would be a plus.

When he was discussing the qualities he would seek in Souter's successor, Obama said last week he wanted someone with empathy for average Americans. Conservatives fear that means the president would consider "judicial activists" for the seat.

Leahy said he expects the next justice to be confirmed by the court's new term in October and that the president will consult with lawmakers from both parties.

"I would like to see, certainly, more women on the court. Having only one woman on the Supreme Court does not reflect the makeup of the United States. I think we should have more women. We should have more minorities," Leahy said.

Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, a committee member who last week switched from the Republican to the Democratic Party, suggested someone in the mold of a statesman or stateswoman, and said he could imagine a nominee who was not a lawyer, if that a person had the right credentials.

"I would like to see somebody with broader experience," Specter said. "We have a very diverse country. We need more people to express a woman's point of view or a minority point of view, Hispanic or African American ... somebody who's done something more than wear a black robe for most of their lives."

Colo. may end death penalty to focus on cold cases

DENVER (AP)—Colorado is one of 10 states that have considered abolishing the death penalty this year to save money, but Colorado's proposal has a twist: It would use the savings to investigate about 1,400 unsolved slayings.

The measure has sparked fierce debate between prosecutors and some victims' families. Prosecutors want to keep capital punishment as an option for heinous crimes, and they say the bill has raised unrealistic hopes about solving cold cases.

Supporters of the bill say it's more important to find and prosecute killers still on the loose than to execute the ones already convicted.

"The death penalty is not relevant without a murderer brought to trial," said Laurie Wiedeman, the older sister of 17-year-old Gay Lynn Dixon, whose 1982 slaying remains unsolved. "I would like to see the person who killed my sister put to death. But to have that person free to run around and committing other crimes?"

Abolishing Colorado's death penalty would save an estimated $1 million a year that now is spent on prosecutors' time, public defenders' fees and appeals, according to a legislative analysis.

Supporters of the death penalty repeal measure want that money diverted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations cold case unit, which has just one staffer. The extra money could add eight people to the unit, the legislative analysis said.

Proponents, led by Evergreen-based Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, also say Colorado's death penalty is so rarely used that it's not a deterrent.

Colorado has executed only one person in the past 42 years, Gary Lee Davis, put to death in 1997 for his conviction in a 1986 slaying. Two men are currently on the state's death row.

ACROSS THE NATION

Storms rumble across Southeast; Miss. woman killed

ATLANTA (AP)—Authorities say severe storms that rumbled across the Southeast killed one person, knocked out power to thousands and caused property damage in at least three states. A coroner says a 46-year-old Laurel, Mississippi, woman was killed when a tree fell on her while she was standing outside her home Sunday in the southeastern part of the state. Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi reported minor property damage. Emergency officials say a tornado touched down near Crossville, Tenn., about 60 miles west of Knoxville. And authorities in Alabama and Georgia say several funnel clouds were spotted. The storms also knocked out power to about 10,000 customers around the Atlanta-metro area. Most had been restored by 10 p.m. About 6,000 Alabama customers were in the dark for awhile.

Wolves no longer protected in Northern Rockies

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Wolves in parts of the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes region come off the endangered species list on Monday, opening them to public hunts in some states for the first time in decades. Federal officials say the population of gray wolves in those areas has recovered and is large enough to survive on its own. The animals were listed as endangered in 1974, after they had been wiped out across the lower 48 states by hunting and government-sponsored poisoning. "We've exceeded our recovery goals for nine consecutive years, and we fully expect those trends will continue," said Seth Willey, regional recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver. With the delisting, state wildlife agencies will have full control over the animals. States such as Idaho and Montana plan to resume hunting the animals this fall, but no hunting has been proposed in the Great Lakes region.

Most charges dropped in Mo. ritual sex abuse cases

WASHBURN, Mo. (AP)—There was a lot of public attention when leaders of two obscure churches in the Ozarks woods were accused of ceremonially abusing girls, preparing them for "service to God" by molesting them. The allegations involved extended families in southwest Missouri, a largely rural area that has one of the state's highest rates of reported child abuse and has had other high-profile abuse cases. But nearly three years later, the cases have almost completely unraveled: Only one of the six defendants remains charged, and he is free on bail while waiting for a yet-to-be-scheduled trial. All six defendants, related by blood or marriage, pleaded not guilty. Hearing after hearing was held. Many of the approximately 100 members of the churches moved away.

Asia

Rising tensions threaten Pakistan, Taliban peace

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army and the Taliban blamed each other Sunday for a rise in tensions that threatened to destroy a much-criticized peace deal, just days before the Pakistani president heads to Washington for talks with President Barack Obama.

The army accused militants in the Swat Valley of looting, attacking infrastructure and killing one soldier. A Taliban spokesman said militants will start patrolling Swat's main town, and acknowledged that they cut the throats of two soldiers as revenge for the army killing two insurgents.

What happens to the peace pact is likely to figure prominently in talks between Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Obama later this week. Zardari is expected to ask for more money to help Pakistan's battered economy and underequipped security forces.

Under February's peace deal, the government agreed to impose Islamic law in the districts that make up the Malakand Division in hopes that the militants would lay down their arms.

But the Taliban in Swat were emboldened, and soon entered the adjacent Buner district to impose their harsh brand of Islam.

Pakistan has insisted on using negotiations and force in tackling violent extremism within its borders. It's an approach that worries U.S. officials, who warn that peace deals allow the insurgents time and room to strengthen.

Taliban and al-Qaida fighters already have strongholds along Pakistan's border regions from which to plan attacks on U.S. and NATO forces in neighboring Afghanistan, and American leaders don't want to see Swat turn into a sanctuary for them.

Sunday, the Swat Taliban started patrolling Mingora, the valley's main town, in response to military patrols, Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan said.

"We are not violating the peace deal. This is government and security forces who are doing that. We have started armed patrols in response to security forces patrols. We will keep on doing that if they do, and we wouldn't if they don't. We have a right to defend ourselves," Khan said.

AP

Local residents flee from Bari Kot, a troubled area of Pakistani district of Buner, Saturday, May 2, 2009.

In recent weeks, the militants have moved into Buner, a district just 60 miles from Islamabad. The proximity of the district to the capital raised alarms domestically and abroad, and Pakistan's military went on the offensive over the past week to drive the Taliban out.

An army statement Sunday said 80 militants including an important local commander had been killed, along with three soldiers. But the army's statement focused much more on Swat itself.

It accused militants there of looting a bank, attacking a power grid and blowing up part of a bridge. It said security forces discovered at least three explosives-laden vehicles apparently intended for suicide attacks.

The militants were "in gross violation of the peace accord" and their actions threatened "the lives of the (civilian) population, civil administration as well as security forces personnel," the army statement said.

On top of that list, two security personnel were discovered with their throats slit and their bodies and faces mutilated Sunday in Swat, a security official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media on the record.

The Taliban spokesman said the men were killed in revenge for the military's killing of two insurgents.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai protest leader says soldiers attacked him

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai protest leader who survived an assassination attempt said Sunday he believes he was attacked by soldiers who were assigned to silence him because he knows too much about the shady side of Thai politics. Sondhi Limthongkul, leader of Thailand's "yellow-shirt" movement that helped topple the government three years ago, spoke in his first news conference since the April 17 attack, in which his car was ambushed by gunmen in pickup trucks firing M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles. "I am certain that soldiers were behind this assassination attempt," Sondhi said. He offered no proof but listed factors that he said backed his argument, including the attackers' use of "weapons of war" and the way they positioned themselves during the shooting. "It was obviously the position of well-trained soldiers," he said.

Protests erupt in Nepal after PM fires army chief

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's prime minister fired the army chief Sunday after a struggle over admitting former Maoist rebel fighters to the military, sparking mass protests and jeopardizing the survival of the country's first elected government. President Ram Baran Yadav, meanwhile, rejected the ouster of army chief, Rookmangud Katawal, in a letter, calling it unconstitutional. The letter was delivered to Katawal's office late Sunday night and copies were also sent to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's residence. Yadav was the first person elected as president in this Himalayan country, where a centuries-old monarchy was abolished last year. The army is officially under the president's command, not the prime minister.

Time frozen in Chinese quake town

BEICHUAN, China (AP)—A clock lies cradled by rubble, frozen at 2:28. Pencils and notebooks litter the ruined grounds of a school. Living rooms where families used to gather are now buried in layers of dust and mud. The moment last May 12 when a powerful earthquake devastated this bustling town in Sichuan's verdant mountains remains perfectly preserved. The magnitude-7.9 temblor, China's worst in three decades, killed almost 70,000 people and left more than 5 million homeless. The town of Beichuan, nestled in a region of small mines and tea plantations, saw half its 26,000 residents killed and 70 percent of its buildings destroyed. It was left so shattered that the government has decided to abandon it and rebuild elsewhere. A year later, a chain-link fence ringed with barbed wire and police guards keep visitors out—with occasional exceptions. Once inside, it is silent save for the wind moaning through abandoned buildings and rattling metal sheeting. Yet there are signs of a past life everywhere—a pink child-sized sweater, cardboard that used to contain fast food meals, a tumble of chairs in a broken classroom, plastic toys next to chunks of concrete.

At least 20 dead as storm batters RP

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers dug up six more bodies in a remote village where a landslide buried a dozen houses in the northeastern Philippines, raising the death toll left by a tropical storm to at least 20, officials said Monday.

Army troops, police and villagers unearthed the bodies overnight from a huge mound of mud and debris that cascaded down a mountain and buried 12 houses as residents slept early Saturday, officials said. Nine bodies had previously been recovered from the village in Magallanes township in Sorsogon province.

Rescuers used their hands and shovels on Monday to find three more residents still missing and believed to be buried in the pile of mud, regional disaster official Bernardo Alejandro told The Associated Press by telephone.

The storm—which was moving further out to sea on Monday—left five other people dead, including two women who were electrocuted amid heavy rains in nearby Camarines Sur province, and two men who drowned in Camarines Norte province, Alejandro said.

A baby also died in Sorsogon's Irosin township when a tree collapsed on a house over the weekend, he said.

The storm, which lashed several northeastern provinces late last week, gained strength over the weekend with sustained winds of 65 miles (105 kilometers) per hour before moving offshore. On Monday, it was 242 miles (390 kilometers) northeast off the country's coast and moving further out in the Pacific Ocean, said government forecaster Aldczar Aurelio.

On Saturday, authorities in Albay province moved nearly 45,000 villagers into school shelters from their houses at the foot of the Mayon volcano, fearing possible mudslides. Some of the villagers started to return home Monday after weather improved overnight, Alejandro said.

About 20 typhoons and tropical storms lash the country each year, mostly after June. The current storm struck in the middle of the Philippine summer, an unusual occurrence that may have been caused by changing weather patterns caused by global warming, Alejandro said.

Afghan rights chief fears vote fraud against women

KABUL (AP)—Ballots of Afghan women in conservative districts are vulnerable to fraud in August's presidential election, the country's top human rights official said Sunday.

The movements of women are severely restricted by tradition in conservative parts of Afghanistan, where it is rare for women to travel outside their villages or even their family compounds. There, male relatives often register the women as voters.

"Two issues are of concern for me. First is that the right of the woman to cast her vote will not be given to her, and the second is that it's possible that there will be serious fraud in the election by this method," Sima Samar, chairwoman of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, told a news conference.

Giving an example, Samar said that during the last six months of voter registration, 72 percent of those signing up in Logar - a province south of Kabul - were women. She said it was not "logically acceptable" that so many registrants were female.

She said officials also saw unexpectedly high registration of women in Paktika, Paktia and Khost provinces.

Under Afghan law, only the person on a registration card may vote. But Samar said that in the country's 2004 presidential election there were reports of one person casting multiple votes on behalf of other family members.

The top U.N. representative in the country, Kai Eidi, who spoke alongside Samar, said there was "no doubt that there are irregularities" stemming from the registration process, but that no one knows how significant they are.

He called for transparent and credible elections "so the result reflects the will of the Afghan people."

The two-week period for presidential candidates to register ends May 8. So far no candidates have registered who could seriously challenge President Hamid Karzai, who is seeking a new five-year term.

One potential contender, Nangarhar province Gov. Gul Agha Sherzai, pulled out Saturday.

Afghanistan's fragile democracy is also endangered by daily violence, which threatens to overshadow the Aug. 20 election, the second presidential vote since the ouster of the hard-line Taliban regime by U.S.-backed forces in 2001.

Sri Lanka may pardon surrendering rebel fighters

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's government said Sunday it is considering an amnesty for Tamil Tiger rebels who surrender—although not for leaders of the insurgency, which is facing defeat after 25 years of civil war.

The rebels, meanwhile, asked Britain and France to keep pushing for a cease-fire after the European nations' recent failure to secure a halt in the fighting to allow civilians to evacuate the war zone.

An estimated 50,000 noncombatants are trapped in a tiny coastal strip along with the cornered rebels in the island's northeast. A recent United Nations report said about 6,500 civilians were killed in the area during the past three months.

The government has rejected the cease-fire calls, saying it is on the verge of victory.

Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said officials from the attorney general's department are studying the legal basis for a possible pardon for rebels who surrender but a final decision has not been made.

He said any such offer would not be open to rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and others convicted in Sri Lanka for various attacks or wanted in neighboring India for the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"The leadership will be dealt with under the laws of the country," Samarasinghe said.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Supermarket magnate wins Panama presidential vote

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Conservative supermarket magnate Ricardo Martinelli won Panama's presidential election in a landslide Sunday, promising to guide the country through the world economic crisis and an ambitious expansion of the Panama Canal. The win by Martinelli, of the opposition Alliance for Change, marked a rare center-right election triumph in a region that has seen a wave of leftist leaders. Electoral Tribunal President Erasmo Pinilla called Martinelli the "indisputable winner" after preliminary results showed him with 61 percent support and governing party candidate Balbina Herrera with 37 percent. Former President Guillermo Endara was a distant third. The winner was announced with 87 percent of the votes counted. The U.S.-educated, pro-business Martinelli, 57, who owns Panama's largest supermarket chain, said he would work for a national unity government because "that is what the country is counting on."

Iraqi Sunni fighters detained for past attacks

BAGHDAD (AP)—A Sunni militia leader who took up arms against insurgents now faces charges linked to bloodshed before joining the U.S.-led battle—setting up another potential showdown over how to sort out the messy histories for thousands of tribal fighters who went from enemies to allies. The question took on a sharper edge Sunday as some Sunni leaders denounced the arrests of the Sunni militia chief and his two brothers as a sign the Shiite-led government may be more interested in settling past scores than finding reconciliation. A similar dispute in March touched off two days of deadly clashes in Baghdad that required U.S. forces to intervene. "This arrest is a plot to undermine our strength," said Sheik Mustafa Kamil al-Jubouri, a leader in southern Baghdad for the so-called Awakening Councils, who turned against al-Qaida and other insurgents in recent years in one of the pivotal alliances of the war.

Italian premier Berlusconi's wife seeking divorce

ROME (AP)—Premier Silvio Berlusconi's second wife has for years lived a very separate life from her billionaire husband, rarely participating in his official events or travels. On Sunday, she confirmed she was seeking a divorce, citing his reported flirtations with younger women. After 19 years of marriage and three children, former actress Veronica Lario said she had hired an attorney to begin separation and divorce proceedings against the media mogul-turned-politician, the ANSA news agency said. "I was forced to take this step," La Stampa newspaper quoted Lario as saying in its Sunday edition. Berlusconi issued a one-line statement saying: "It's a personal issue that pains me, that is in the private sphere, and which seems necessary not to speak about."

New swine flu cases in Europe, US, Latin America

AP

A hairdresser wears a mask as a precaution against the swine flu as he works on a teenager hair in Zipaquira, Colombia, Sunday, May 3, 2009.

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The swine flu epidemic spread deeper into the United States, Europe and Latin America—and in Canada, back to pigs—even as Mexico's health chief hinted Sunday it may soon be time to reopen businesses and schools in the nation where the outbreak likely began.

The virus spread to Colombia in the first confirmed case in South America, worrisome because flu season is about to begin in the Southern Hemisphere. More cases were confirmed in Europe and North America; the World Health Organization said at least 787 people have been sickened worldwide.

Dr. Richard Besser, acting chief of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said swine flu is spreading just as easily as regular winter flu, with 226 confirmed cases in 30 U.S. states.

"The good news is when we look at this virus right now, we're not seeing some of the things in the virus that have been associated in the past with more severe flu," Besser said. "That's encouraging, but it doesn't mean we're out of the woods yet."

Mexican Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova said the virus that has killed 19 people in Mexico and sickened at least 506 apparently peaked here between April 23 and April 28. A drastic nationwide shutdown appears to have helped prevent the outbreak from becoming more serious, he said.

"The evolution of the epidemic is now in its declining phase," Cordova declared.

He said officials would decide Monday whether to extend the shutdown or allow schools and businesses to reopen on Wednesday.

Pablo Kuri, an epidemiologist advising Cordova, told The Associated Press on Sunday that tests have confirmed a swine flu death in Mexico City on April 11, two days earlier than what had been believed to be the first death.

He also said there have been no deaths among health care workers treating swine flu patients in Mexico, an indication that the virus may not be as contagious or virulent as initially feared.

Swine flu goes person-to-pig; could it jump back?

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Now that the swine flu virus has passed from a farmworker to pigs, could it jump back to people? The question is important, because crossing species again could make it more deadly.

The never-before-seen virus was created when genes from pig, bird and human viruses mixed together inside a pig. Experts fear the virus that has gone from humans back into pigs in at least one case could mutate further before crossing back into humans again. But no one can predict what will happen.

"Could it gain virulence? Yes," Juan Lubroth, an animal health expert at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, said Sunday. "It could also become milder. It could go in both directions."

Canadian officials announced Saturday that the virus had infected about 200 pigs on a farm—the first evidence that it had jumped to another species. It was linked to a farmworker who recently returned from Mexico, where 19 people have died from the virus. The farmworker has recovered, and the mildly infected pigs have been quarantined.

Agriculture officials believe the worker may have sneezed or coughed near the pigs, possibly in a barn. About 10 percent of the herd experienced loss of appetite and fever, but all are recovering.

Experts say pork—even from infected pigs—is safe to eat.

Lubroth stressed that sick people should avoid contact with swine, but said healthy farmworkers don't need to take any extra precautions because the chance of catching flu from a pig is small.

Unlike the H5N1 bird flu virus, which infects the blood, organs and tissue of poultry, most swine flus are confined to the respiratory tract, meaning the risk of a human getting infected by a pig is "probably 10 or a 1,000 times less," Lubroth said.

But pigs are of special concern because they share some basic biological similarities with humans, and they have served as "mixing vessels" in which various flu strains have swapped genetic material. That's what happened to create the current swine flu strain.

Scientists are unsure when the virus leaped from pigs to humans—possibly months or even a year ago—but it was identified as a new strain about a week and a half ago. Since then, nearly 800 cases have been confirmed worldwide. The only death outside Mexico occurred when a Mexican toddler died in a Texas hospital.

Gates plans to reassure allies on Iran outreach

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates, seeking to soothe Mideast allies worried about Tehran's reach, said Sunday that efforts to bolster U.S. relations with Iran may still ultimately face what he called "a closed fist."

Gates was flying to Egypt, the first stop on a Mideast tour that continues in Saudi Arabia. He said part of his mission will be to assure Saudis that any U.S. outreach to Iran aims to increase security throughout the region.

Building diplomacy with Iran "will not be at the expense of our long-term relationships with Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states that have been our partners and friends for decades," Gates told reporters aboard a military jet headed to Cairo.

"There's probably some concerns in the region that may draw on an exaggerated sense of what's possible," Gates said. "And I just think it's important to reassure our friends and allies in the region that while we're willing to reach out to the Iranians, as the president said, with an open hand, I think everybody in the administration, from the president on down, is pretty realistic and will be pretty tough-minded if we still encounter a closed fist."

Gates gets to Cairo on Monday and will be in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, on Tuesday.

He also noted concerns throughout the Mideast about Iran's influence in Baghdad, and said they could be staved off if more Arab nations opened embassies or otherwise became more involved in Iraq. Gates praised Egypt, for example, for having "taken some serious steps forward to re-engage."

Israeli-run zones shield West Bank criminals

HEBRON, West Bank (AP)—When Nasser Qaout went to investigate strange sounds in his sheep pen late at night, a gang of armed thieves shot him in the leg and made off with half his flock.

He and Palestinian police know who the thieves are—and even where they are—but a year and half later, they're still in their homes about three miles down the road.

Police say they can't arrest the crooks because they live in an Israeli-controlled area, which Palestinian forces can't enter freely. It's a unique dilemma for Palestinian law enforcement: How to maintain security when criminals have more freedom of movement than police do.

The international community considers the Palestinians' ability to handle internal security a prerequisite for independence. European countries gave $5.3 million last year to bolster Palestinian security forces, and the United States has given more than $160 million for that purpose since 2007.

The European and U.S. emphasis is on bolstering the strength of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas against the militant Islamic movement Hamas and similar groups. Israel is constantly demanding Abbas' Palestinian Authority crack down on militants.

But Palestinian police also must fight common crime, and they say the jigsaw puzzle of security zones that cover the West Bank, dividing it between Israeli- and Palestinian-controlled areas, hampers their work. Israel occupied the territory in the 1967 Mideast war and maintains overall control, although international agreements have given the Palestinian Authority limited autonomy in some areas.

Palestinian police can only enter Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank with permission, which they say is often difficult or impossible to obtain, making these virtual black holes ideal hideouts for criminals.

Overdrive

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
The Elantra Touring's 2-liter, in-line four-cylinder engine whines and wheezes a bit at real-world median highway speeds (about 10 miles faster than posted legal), as if it's trying to catch its breath.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Very good ride and handling. Good acceleration. Just try not to push it beyond its design intent. It is an economy family hauler.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It has the appeal of a favorite pair of jeans or tennis shoes. It seems to go with anything you wear.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Elantra Touring is a compact front-engine, front-wheel drive, five-door hatchback wagon.

ENGINE/ TRANSMISSION
It is equipped with a 2-liter, 16-valve, in-line four-cylinder engine that develops 138 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 136 foot-pounds of torque at 4,600 revolutions per minute. The engine is mated to a standard five-speed manual transmission. A four-speed automatic is optional.

CAPACITIES
Seats five people. With rear seats folded, maximum cargo space is 65 cubic feet. It goes to 24.3 cubic feet with rear seats up. The fuel tank holds 14 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
I averaged 30 miles per gallon all in highway driving.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock control, electronic brake-force distribution, also electronic stability and traction control, and side and head air bags.

PRICE
The base price on the 2009 Hyundai Elantra Touring is $17,800. Dealer's invoice price is $17,071. Price as tested is $19,995, including $1,500 in options (heated front seats, power glass roof, 17-inch diameter tires) and a $695 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $19,131. Prices are sourced from Hyundai, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
It gets an enthusiastic "buy" here. Compare with Scion xB, Nissan Cube and Kia Soul.

2009 ELANTRA TOURING

From Hyundai, an unexpected turn in the road

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—A decade ago, I wrote several columns urging readers to take seriously Hyundai Motor, Korea's largest automobile manufacturer.

I was impressed by the willingness of the company to adapt, and by the speed with which it shifted gears to meet the changing realities of the marketplace.

It is a story now turned cliché: The Hyundai that entered the United States with motorized junk in 1985—the Excel subcompact—is now a bona fide competitor in the global automobile industry.

Even high-end companies, such as Germany's BMW, are looking in their rear-view mirrors, checking the Korean manufacturer's rapid progress with models such as the high-quality, high-performance Hyundai Genesis sedan and coupe.

But the Genesis models don't pose the biggest threat to Hyundai's rivals. That, instead, comes in the bread-and-butter segment, the market for compact and midsize sedans and wagons. It comes with models such as this week's subject vehicle, the 2009 Hyundai Elantra Touring.

Hyundai's strategy in the family car category is as simple as it is complicated: The Korean company wants to beat all of its top Japanese rivals—Honda, Nissan and Toyota—by offering better products at a lower price.

"Better," as illustrated by the Elantra Touring, means giving people much more car than they expect for the money.

The subject vehicle, for example, is a five-door compact hatchback wagon. You expect a certain amount of utility in that kind of vehicle. But you don't expect cargo space—a maximum 65 cubic feet with the rear seats folded—that matches the room found in many midsize sport-utility models.

You expect a manual transmission as standard equipment. But you don't expect a short-throw, five-speed manual gearbox that shifts with the precision of something found in a vehicle set up for weekend track racing. You certainly don't expect a car that is loads of fun to drive. But that is what you get in the Elantra Touring, a car that offers so much for the money, it makes you suspicious.

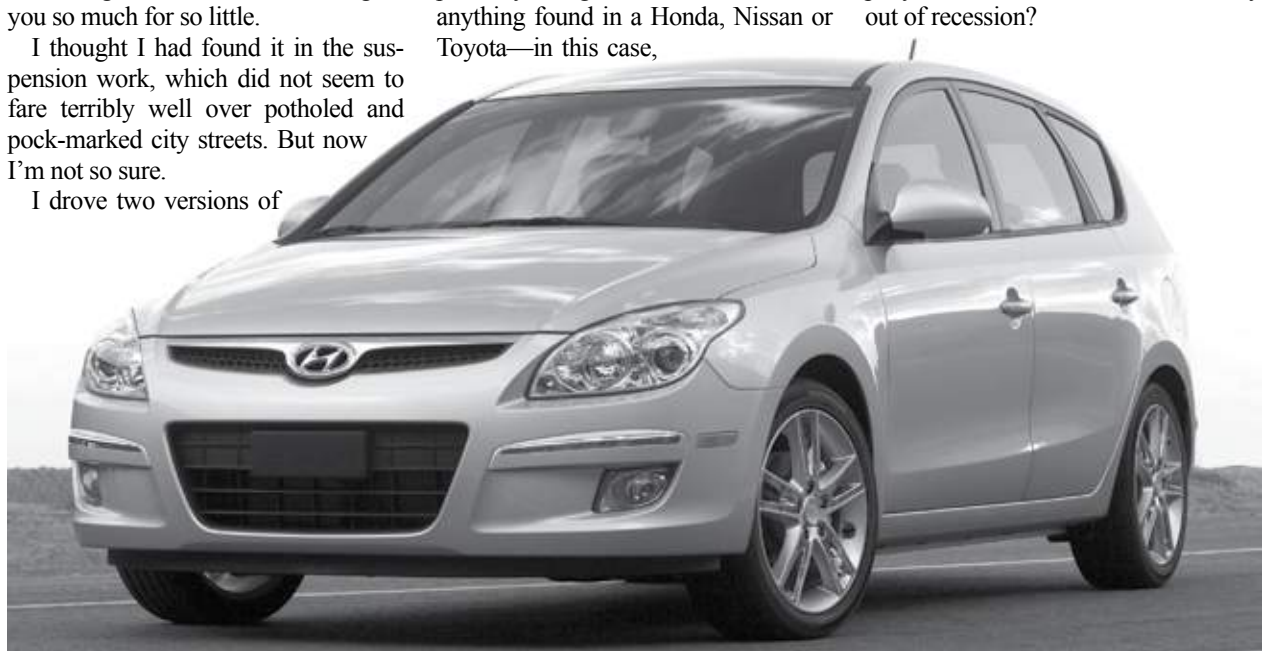
You start trying to figure out where Hyundai has cut corners, what cheapskate magic has been worked to give you so much for so little.

I thought I had found it in the suspension work, which did not seem to fare terribly well over potholed and pock-marked city streets. But now I'm not so sure.

I drove two versions of the Elantra Touring—one with manual transmission and 16-inch radial tires and the other with automatic transmission and 17-inch radials. The model with the bigger tires felt more stable over roads bad and good. It was absent the sometimes irritating choppiness I felt in the car with the smaller tires.

Check out standard equipment. Hyundai offers four-wheel disc brakes (ventilated front/solid rear), antilock brakes, electronic brake-force distribution (which automatically increases brake force to the wheels that need it most), and electronic stability and traction control. Also included are side and head air bags—all in a car with a base price well south of $20,000. That's a real bargain!

Interior materials weren't the best in the world—a bountiful helping of bargain-priced vinyl there. But everything appeared stitched and assembled perfectly, as good if not better than anything found in a Honda, Nissan or Toyota—in this case,



The 2009 Hyundai Elantra Touring is a compact five-door hatchback family hauler that has the appeal of a favorite pair of jeans or tennis shoes. It seems to go with anything you wear.
THE WASHINGTON POST

for several hundred to a couple of thousand of dollars less.

With an in-line four-cylinder, 138-horsepower engine, there's more than adequate power for most commuter transportation needs. Fuel economy—using recommended regular unleaded gasoline—is good at 23 miles per gallon in the city and 31 miles per gallon on the highway.

On top of it all, Hyundai has given car sales a slight boost in a dreadfully dismal market with its Hyundai Assurance Plus program, designed to relieve consumer anxiety by promising to take over car payments within the first year of a vehicle purchase for buyers who lose jobs through no fault of their own.

That program has been successful enough to be copied in various forms by Ford and General Motors. Could it be that Hyundai, once the laughing-stock of the car world, will be the company that leads the automobile industry out of recession?

Pontiac, pop culture icon, hits end of the road

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It could crash through burning buildings, make a fool of any number of small-town Southern sheriffs, help save the world from giant robots, even take criminals off to jail while engaging in witty repartee with its driver.

In the end, about the only thing a Pontiac automobile couldn't do anymore was persuade enough people to keep buying it.

So General Motors announced this past week that it is killing off the Pontiac brand, maker of muscular, noisy, gas-guzzling V-8-powered vehicles immortalized in song and movies for the way they seemed to shout to every other car on the block: "Out of the way, pipsqueak!"

When Burt Reynolds needed to outrun Jackie Gleason's bumbling Sheriff Buford T. Justice across the South in the 1977 movie "Smokey and the Bandit," he chose a black Pontiac Trans Am. When he needed a car to crash through burning buildings in "Hooper," it was a red Trans Am.

On TV, the star of the hit 1980s series "Knight Rider" wasn't really David Hasselhoff, it was his talking Pontiac. When Jim Garner's private eye Jim Rockford needed to hit the road to solve a crime, he didn't get behind the wheel of a Ford Mustang or a Chevrolet Camaro. He chose a Pontiac Firebird.

And when a bored high school senior from Nashville, Tenn., decided to tune out his physics teacher's lecture one day and check out a copy of Car and Driver magazine, it was a picture of a hot new Pontiac he saw on the cover. By the end of class, John Wilkin had written the 1964 pop classic "GTO."

Soon after, he would become known as Ronny Wilkin, frontman for a Beach Boys-soundalike group called Ronny and the Daytonas, and he would have the country singing: "Little GTO, you're really lookin' fine. Three deuces and a four-speed and a 389. Listen to her tachin' up now, listen to her whine. Come on and turn it on, wind it up, blow it out GTO."

AP
In this undated photo released by General Motors Corp., a 1984 Pontiac Fiero is shown. General Motors announced this past week that it is killing off the Pontiac brand.

For a time, the Monkees rode around in a tricked-out GTO, too.

Sometime in the '80s, however, the love affair began to fade.

Car enthusiasts speculated this week whether it was changing tastes, the move toward more environmentally sensitive cars or perhaps Pontiac's inability to keep coming up with new signature muscle cars that was to blame.

Pontiac's more recent contributions to America's automotive efforts included the very uncool Aztek, a chunky vehicle that looked like an SUV that tried to squeeze under a low-clearance bridge.

Jim Mattison, whose Michigan-based Pontiac Historic Services provides information on the model to collectors, noted that for whatever reason the company hadn't produced anything to capture the public's imagination in a long time.

"In 1963, they came out with this wonderful car called the GTO, then the Firebird in 1967, and then that evolved into the Trans Am," Mattison said. "The momentum kept on building until more recent years."

Pontiac, which discontinued the Firebird and Trans Am in 2002, tried bringing back the GTO in 2004. But the new model, produced in Australia, never caught on and was discontinued two years later.

Life & Style

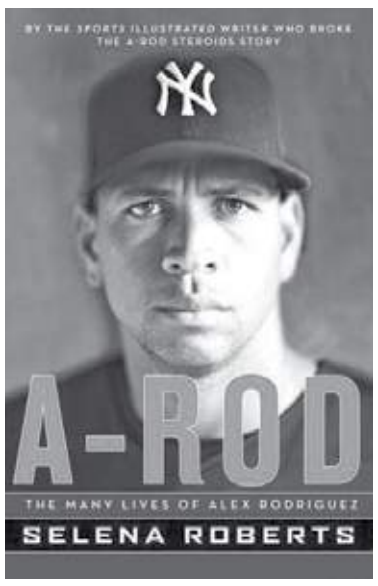
In a 1990s photo, Alex Rodriguez is seen when he played for Westminster Christian high school in Miami.

AP

Author sees A-Rod as insecure, needing to please

NEW YORK (AP)—Journalist Selena Roberts makes the case that Alex Rodriguez likely used steroids in high school and may have taken HGH while with the Yankees in her new biography of the MVP, a portrait of a deeply insecure man trying to cope with being abandoned by his father and obsessed with becoming a superstar.

The release of "A-Rod: The Many Lives of Alex Rodriguez" has been moved up to Monday because details of Rodriguez' possible drug use as a teenager and as a Yankee leaked out over the past week. Rodriguez has refused comment, and Yankees manager Joe Girardi questioned Sunday why the book was even written.


BY THE SPORTS ILLUSTRATED WRITER WHO BROKE THE A-ROD STEROIDS STORY
A-ROD
THE MANY LIVES OF ALEX RODRIGUEZ
SELENA ROBERTS

In the book, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, Roberts traces much of the slugger's behavior to his father's decision to separate from the family when Alex was 10.

"I think like any child, you never want to be abandoned again. In order to sort of keep people near him, people close, please people, I think he always felt that he had to be better than good," Roberts said in a telephone interview Sunday.

"I think in some ways he felt he had to be, you know, not just a great story, but a tall tale, something that was too good to be true in so many ways."

For her, a key insight into A-Rod's character comes with what some might call a fib: He tells people he hit with wood bats in high school because that's what the pros use, even though she found photo evidence he used metal.

The pattern of embellishment and outright deceit continues through his admitted used of steroids in the major leagues, Roberts contends.

Following Roberts' article on SI.com in February that said Rodriguez tested positive for steroids in 2003 as part of baseball's anonymous survey, Rodriguez admitted using drugs from 2001-03 while with Texas. Roberts concludes he likely had to have used steroids while in high school, before Seattle selected him with the top pick in the 1993 amateur draft.

"I've talked to players who say he was using in high school, but if you want to discard that, you look at the physical evidence," she told the AP. "You look at a player who by his own coach's account was unrecognizable his junior year because his body had changed so much. Scouts didn't recognize him. In his sophomore year he could barely bench press 100 pounds. By his junior year, he was bench pressing 300 pounds."

She writes that after Rodriguez joined the Yankees, "a player told me he had witnessed a strange scene: (Kevin) Brown and Alex had ampoules of HGH in their possession at Yankee Stadium." Brown denied that account through his lawyer.

Major League Baseball has interviewed Dodd Romero, Rodriguez's former trainer, as part of its follow up effort to check the veracity of statements Rodriguez made to the sport's investigators in March, a baseball official said Sunday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the disclosure wasn't authorized.

Baseball also hopes to interview Yuri Sucart, the official said. Sucart has been identified as the cousin who provided Rodriguez with steroids obtained in the Dominican Republic.

But more interesting than the drug accusations is the psychological portrait of a needy Rodriguez desperately trying to create a lovable image yet wrecking it by running around with strippers, going to a "swingers' club" and to illegal poker venues. Roberts called it "a battle he is waging" that's made him a staple of the gossip pages.

"He went through a phase where, I think, and maybe he's still going through the phase, I don't know, where he really I think felt as if he had transcended baseball and reached a different level with the public, on a higher celebrity level, than he was as a ballplayer," she said.

That celebrity only has increased in the past two years as he got interested in Kaballah, became friends with Madonna and divorced his wife Cynthia. While most Yankees who live in Manhattan take apartments on the East Side, convenient for traveling to the ballpark, Rodriguez has rented a $30,000-a-month apartment two blocks from Madonna's Manhattan residence on the West Side.

AP

In this April 2, 2003, file photo, Texas Rangers' Alex Rodriguez heads for first base after hitting his 300th career home run, in a baseball game against the Anaheim Angels at Edison Field in Anaheim, Calif.

"I think it is a mystery in so many ways but I think what is not a mystery and what is in fact true from the teammates I've talked to and from the people around him is that he was infatuated with her," Roberts said. "I think a lot of people want to write it off as publicity and dismiss it easily as something that was manufactured, but you have to remember that real people did get hurt. There was divorce that was filed afterwards. There were a lot of changes in his life that were, you know, not about a publicity stunt."

For much of his career, Rodriguez has shown what Roberts says is "a well-honed, very orchestrated personality. ... years in the making of trying to create a persona that would mesh well with the corporate world." At the same time, she writes "the abandoned boy within Alex Rodriguez made him particularly gullible to the influence of successful, authoritative men, so it was easy for (agent) Scott Boras to manipulate him like a sock puppet."

Roberts said she remains hopeful for Rodriguez, who likely will rejoin the Yankees within a week following his recovery from hip surgery.

"I do think there's a very good Alex in there," said Roberts, who spent six months reporting and writing the book. "I think the good Alex has a very good shot at winning. I think the good Alex is there for all of us to see for the next nine years. ... No matter what stage he seems to go through, what sort of incarnation he seems to go through, I think that he is at heart a pretty tenderhearted person."

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2009 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. **Liberty and Tyranny**, by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions: $25). The talk-radio personality's call to revitalize the conservative vision in America.
2. **Act Like a Lady**, Think Like a Man, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: $23.99). The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.
3. **Outliers**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99). An exploration of the background of high achievers.
4. **Real Solutions for Busy Moms**, by Kathy Ireland (Howard: $23.99). How to balance the responsibilities of a busy home life.
5. **Always Looking Up**, by Michael J. Fox (Hyperion: $25.99). The actor's emotional and spiritual outlook in his struggle with Parkinson's disease.
6. **House of Cards**, by William D. Cohan (Doubleday: $27.95). A narrative chronicling the fall of Bear Stearns and the Wall Street meltdown.
7. **The Secret**, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95). Life's secrets, distilled.
8. **Columbine**, by Dave Cullen (Twelve: $26.99). A journalist reconstructs the psychological journey of two teenage boys who became killers.
9. **Mommywood**, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $25). The actress reveals the struggles to raise normal kids in Hollywood.
10. **In Praise of Stay-at-Home Moms**, by Laura Schlessinger (Harper: $25.99). The family therapist provides advice to mothers staying home with their children.

Fiction

1. **Breaking Dawn**, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99). The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.
2. **Eclipse**, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99). Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.
3. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw**, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: $12.95). Greg's dad enlists him in sports to toughen him up.
4. **Long Lost**, by Harlan Coben (Dutton: $27.95). Private eye Myron Bolitar takes the case of a woman accused of murdering her ex.
5. **First Family**, by David Baldacci (Grand Central : $27.99). A child is kidnapped from a birthday party at Camp David.
6. **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22). A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.
7. **Just Take My Heart**, by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster: $25.95). The case of a man accused of murdering his wife reveals a medical phenomenon.
8. **Little Bee**, by Chris Cleave (Simon & Schuster: $24). The lives of two married British journalists and a Nigerian teenager collide.
9. **The Associate**, by John Grisham (Doubleday: $27.95). A law-school grad's dark secret is used to blackmail him into stealing files from a law firm.
10. **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**, by Stieg Larsson (Knopf: $24.95). A journalist explores the cold-case disappearance of a Swedish teen heiress.

AP

June 16, 2008 file photo showing a view of Santa Maria della Vittoria church in Rome, one of the places that Rome's diocese barred the producers of "Angels & Demons" from filming in for the prequel to the "The Da Vinci Code," the popular book and film that angered many Catholic leaders.

Ron Howard: Vatican obstructed 'Angels & Demons'

ROME (AP)—Director Ron Howard claimed Sunday that the Vatican interfered with efforts to get permits to shoot certain scenes of his "Angels & Demons" religious thriller in Rome—a charge the Vatican said was purely a publicity stunt.

The film, which stars Tom Hanks and is based on the best-selling novel by Dan Brown, has its world premiere Monday in Rome.

"Angels & Demons" combines an ancient secret brotherhood called the Illuminati, a papal conclave and a high-tech weapon threatening to destroy the Vatican.

At a press conference Sunday, Howard said he hadn't sought cooperation from the Vatican based on the opposition he encountered filming "The Da Vinci Code," another Brown novel that angered many Catholic leaders.

But he said the Vatican nevertheless exerted influence regarding his filming permits, and he was told it would not be possible even to shoot scenes in Rome that had churches in the background.

"When you come to film in Rome, the official statement to you is that the Vatican has no influence," he said. "Everything progressed very smoothly, but unofficially a couple of days before we were to start filming in several of our locations, it was explained to us that through back channels and so forth that the Vatican had exerted some influence."

"Was I surprised? No. Am I a little frustrated at times? Sure," he said.

Nevertheless he said he felt that he was able to preserve the overall "Angels & Demons" experience despite the restrictions by recreating scenes on sets. For the Sistine Chapel alone, some 20 members of the production crew—posing as tourists—took photos of all the frescoes, floor mosaics and paintings of the tiny chapel where popes are elected—until they were told to stop, the film's Web site says.

Angels & Demons features Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon of "The Da Vinci Code" fame, played by Hanks in the movie. In the film, the Vatican turns to Langdon after the Illuminati kidnap four cardinals considered front-runners to be the next pope, and threaten to kill one an hour and then explode a bomb at the Vatican.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, refused to comment on Howard's allegations about church interference, saying his charges were purely designed to drum up publicity for the film.

Last summer, Rome's diocese confirmed it had barred producers from filming inside two churches because the movie didn't conform to the church's views.

In addition to Hanks, the film stars Ewan McGregor as the camerlengo, the prelate who takes care of matters dealing with a papal death and runs the Vatican until a new pontiff is elected. Israeli-born actress Ayelet Zurer plays Dr. Vittoria Vetra, a scientist who helps Langdon crack the codes to save the cardinals.

The 2006 film "The Da Vinci Code" took in more than $750 million worldwide. It prompted calls for boycotts by church leaders worldwide with the idea that Jesus married and fathered children and by depicting the conservative Catholic movement, Opus Dei, as a murderous cult.

Who's watching news scorecards on Obama?

NEW YORK (AP)—As President Barack Obama passed his 100th day in office last week, two studies judged that the news media has given him more coverage, and more positive coverage, than his two predecessors at the same point in their terms.

What is that information really worth?

"It's always good to know what you're doing," said Bob Lichter, director of the Center for Media and Public Affairs at George Mason University. "Journalists get critiques from all sides at all times. Instead of throwing up your hands and ignoring critiques of your work, you can focus on reliable critiques."

Lichter's group did one of the studies, looking at evening news coverage and stories in The New York Times over 50 days. It found the ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts devoted nearly 28 hours to the new Obama administration, more than they did during the same stretch in the Bush and Clinton presidencies combined.

The tone of comments by reporters and sources on the three networks reflected positively on Obama in roughly the same proportions, 57 percent on ABC, 58 percent on CBS and 61 percent on NBC. Bush faced a two-thirds negative reaction, and Clinton 44 percent in the same period.

Obama's policies have come in for more criticism than the president himself, the center said.

Another independent think tank, the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, did a more extensive look at media outlets and judged 42 percent of news stories, editorials and columns were pro-Obama. Clinton was 27 percent positive and Bush 22 percent positive in a similar evaluation.

News organizations are focusing more on Obama's leadership style and personal qualities than they did for his immediate predecessors, the Pew Center said.

"My eyes are always open to everything, including studies like these," said Jon Banner, executive producer of ABC's "World News." "I do not program the news by studies or by anything else, for that matter. I program it by the news of the day and what our journalistic guts tell us."

He doesn't pay much attention to the studies parsing his newscast, particularly when done by organizations with a clear point of view.

Given a new president trying to change the direction of two wars and restart the economy, "if we are covering the news, we are covering this administration," Banner said. "There's really no way around that."

Banner said his broadcast isn't influenced by polls indicating Obama's popularity. But Pew's Mark Jurkowitz said it's hard to get around that as a factor for the positive tone in coverage, especially since the election can be seen as a mandate.

"In many ways, he had a better 100 days than Bush or Clinton," Jurkowitz said. "He faced huge challenges. He's had a certain amount of success and it's clear that the public likes him."

AP

President Barack Obama makes a surprise appearance during the daily briefing in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, May 1, 2009.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Carmen Pangelinan Agulto"Sang"

D.O.B: December 14, 1926
D.O.D: April 28, 2009

Pre-deceased by:
Husband: Jose Cepeda Agulto
Children: †Ana P. Aldan/ Ramon/ Francisca/Joseph Agulto
Grandchildren: †Maria Antonia Pangelinan/ Jacqueline Agulto
Great Grandchildren: †Joseph B. Aldan Jr./ Eliseo Valdez Jr.
Parents: †Luis Mendiola Pangelinan & Antonia Cruz Pangelinan

In-law: †Vicente Concepcion Agulto & Ana Cepeda Agulto

Brothers/ Sisters/ lnlaws: Vicente P./Rosa/ Jesus & Dolores/Ramon & Tomasa/Maria & Joaquin Delacruz/ Juan & Consolacion/ Ana & Juan Blas/Jose C. Deleon Guerrero/ Geronimo C. Agulto/Ignacio T. Sablan

Her memories will live in the hearts of her: Children/ Grandchildren:
Josephina P/Jesus R. Tenorio
Edwin & Honora Tenorio
Lucille T. & Isaac Aguon
†Ana P. & †Vicente C. Aldan
Anthony Aldan & Belinda Aguon
Francis & Eliseo Valdez
Vicente & Margarita Agulto
Dennis Aldan & Lacrina
Jemmie & Jermaine Salas
Leticia Aldan & Vincent Lizama
Vanesia Agulto & Wayne Leoncio
Josephine Agulto
Vincent Joe Agulto
Antonia A. & Vicente C. Aldan
Celina & Roy Reyes
Vincent Keith Aldan & Emily Repeki
Joseph & Patricia B. Aldan
Carla Ann & Norman Redor
Darlene Dione Aldan
Ramona Margarita & Jose H. Borja
Tina Ann Borja & Herbit Villagomez
Mary Ann Borja & Glenn S. Arriola
Eric & Melissa Borja
Joseph & Ethel Borja
Michael Lee Borja
Charlene Borja & Darren Camacho
Ramon & Dalia Agulto
Brian Joe & Jennifer R. Agulto
Cherrie Ann A. & Fred Castro
Ramon R. Agulto Jr.
Virginia A. & Jose C. Cruz
Martin Jeffrey Agulto & Joan Ballesteros
Joseph Cruz Jr.
Vincent Christopher Cruz
Michael Cruz
Luis P. & Lolita Agulto
Augustin Jr & Lorraine Catienza
Alvin Salas
Albert Salas
Ericka Agulto

Sister: Aguida P. Sablan

Sisters/Brothers-In-law:
Trinidad C. Deleon Guerrero
Joaquina R. Agulto
Nicolas & Margarita Muna

Numerous Great Grandchildren and great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews.

Mass is being offered at 6:00PM at San Antonio Church, followed immediately by the Holy Rosary

On Thursday, May 7, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz, Cabrera Center, at 7:00AM to San Antonio Church. Responso and Holy Rosary will follow upon arrival at the Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00AM. Interment services to follow immediately at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yuus Maase from the family.

Jackman's 'Wolverine' leads weekend pack with $87M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—You can't keep a good X-Man down.

Hugh Jackman's prequel "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" leaped to the top of the box office with an $87 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That put the movie right in the pack with the three previous "X-Men" movies in which Jackman played mutant superhero Wolverine.

The trilogy's final chapter, "X-Men: The Last Stand," had the franchise's best opening with $102.8 million. But "Wolverine" came in ahead of the first two movies; "X-Men" did $54.5 million in its first weekend and "X2: X-Men United" took in $85.6 million.

"It's all systems go," said Chris Aronson, distribution executive for 20th Century Fox, which releases the "X-Men" movies. "Audiences have a huge appetite for Hugh and this character."

Hugh Jackman, star of "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," poses before an industry screening of the film in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 28, 2009. AP

"Wolverine" also pulled in $73 million in 101 overseas markets, giving it a worldwide total of $160 million. The movie's debut in Mexico was delayed for two weeks because of the swine flu outbreak there.

The Warner Bros. romantic comedy "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past," starring Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner, debuted in second place with $15.3 million.

The previous weekend's top movie, Sony Screen Gems' "Obsessed," fell to No. 3 with $12.2 million. The thriller starring Beyonce Knowles raised its 10-day total to $47 million.

Overall revenues were virtually even with the same weekend a year ago, when "Iron Man" surprised Hollywood with a bigger-than-expected $98.6 million debut. Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian estimated this weekend's total receipts at $160 million, up 0.8 percent from the "Iron Man" weekend a year ago.

Even if that estimate drops slightly once studios release final numbers Monday, the weekend maintained the industry's record box-office pace as consumers cut back on travel and other activities and turn to relatively inexpensive nights out at the movies.

"Nobody thought this weekend would beat or even come close to last year's comparable weekend," Dergarabedian said. "It's a testament to the kind of year we're having and this recessionary moviegoing fueling big box office."

According to Hollywood.com, 2009 revenues are at $3.25 billion, up 16.4 percent from last year's. Accounting for higher ticket prices, movie attendance is running 13.7 percent ahead of 2008's pace.

In limited release, Jim Jarmusch's moody crime drama "The Limits of Control" opened solidly with $54,233 in three theaters, averaging $18,078 a cinema, compared with $21,225 in 4,099 locations for "Wolverine." The Focus Features film about a mystery man on a murky assignment features Isaach De Bankole, Bill Murray and Tilda Swinton.

It was not all good news for the weekend's new movies. Roadside Attractions' animated sci-fi adventure "Battle for Terra" flopped with $1.1 million, averaging just $916 in 1,162 theaters.

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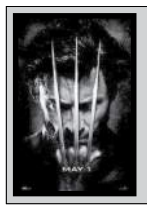


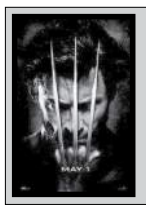
X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.



X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Ghost of Girlfriends Past

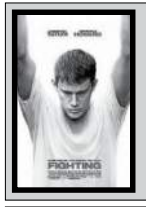
Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Celebrity photographer Connor Mead loves freedom, fun and women-in that order. A committed bachelor with a no-strings policy, he thinks nothing of breaking up with multiple women on a conference call while prepping his next date. Connor's brother Paul is more the romantic type. In fact, he's about to be married.

★ ★ ★



Fighting

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

State of Play

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck
Drama, Political • Rated PG 13

17 Again

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Fast & Furious

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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CBS launches unprecedented ad campaign

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS is launching an unprecedented campaign to publicize its primetime successes weeks in advance of the year's most important ad sales season, trying not to be dragged down by the economy and struggling rivals.

It includes a front-page ad Monday in The New York Times, a USA Today section front ad and commercials throughout CBS television, radio and the Internet.

The network is two weeks away from unveiling its fall schedule; NBC does so on Monday. Release of the broadcast schedules usually prompts a multi-billion dollar frenzy to lock up commercial space for next season, called the upfront.

All of the broadcasters are worried that the economy will continue to hurt ad sales, and that advertisers will migrate to the Internet or niche cable networks.

CBS has quietly had a strong season in prime-time, seeing its viewership jump 12 percent from the last, writers-strike affected season. CBS introduced the season's only real new hit, "The Mentalist," and has won more time slots than ABC, NBC and Fox combined.

"We had a good year and we're well positioned for next year," said George Schweitzer, president of CBS Marketing. "We don't want that message to get lost."

CBS hopes to reach beyond Madison Avenue to heads of companies that may advertise. It seems like a sound strategy, said Marc Berman, a TV analyst for Media Week Online.

"If they were struggling, I would say it's very desperate," Berman said. "They're the No. 1 network. Why not be aggressive?"

Schweitzer said CBS isn't worried that the network will be hurt by the struggles of other broadcasters.

"This is not a defensive position," he said. "This is an offensive position."

Eric Bana documents his first love: his muscle car

NEW YORK (AP)—Eric Bana has shared the screen with various leading ladies. The only one who really got his motor running? A Ford GT Falcon coupe.

"She's definitely the most tempting," laughed Bana in an interview Tuesday at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Bana has brought his directorial debut "Love the Beast" to Tribeca. A documentary about his abiding connection to his first car, it's a 25-year-old love story for the 40-year-old Australian actor dating back to his teenager years in Melbourne.

In this film publicity image released by Patikalar Productions, Eric Bana is shown in a scene from the film, "Love The Beast." AP

Bana is a serious racer and often competes professionally in Australia—including in the grueling five-day Targa Tasmania Rally. The film follows Bana racing his beloved car—nicknamed "the Beast"—in the 2007 Targa Tasmania, in which he crashed on the fourth day. (Bana emerged uninjured along with his co-driver.)

The film may sound like a vanity project, but it unfolds as an examination of how people develop deep emotional bonds with inanimate objects. In the film, Bana refers to his muscle car as a constant in his life and a "campfire" around which he and his friends gather.

"I hate the term 'passion project,'" Bana says. "To me, it's like, what, directors don't normally make projects that they're passionate about? A passion project for me is going motor racing. Going motor racing with cameras is not a passion project."

Bana ("Munich," "Hulk") decided to make "Love the Beast"—which took three years to finish—in part because he was frustrated by car films that never spoke to him emotionally.

'Idol' winner David Cook's brother dies of cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adam Cook, the eldest brother of "American Idol" winner David Cook, has died from brain cancer. He was 37.

David Cook announced the Saturday death at the 12th annual Race for Hope 5K in Washington, D.C., where he was serving as grand marshal. The singer says the cause of death was a brain tumor.

Adam Cook was a lawyer from Terre Haute, Ind., who battled cancer for more than a decade. He famously cheered for his singing sibling in the audience of the popular Fox signing competition's seventh season in 2008.

Julie Henricks, a friend of the Cook family, said Adam Cook died at his Terre Haute home, where hospice nurses were helping Cook's wife, Kendra, care for him.

Henricks said she received a text message Saturday night from Kendra Cook saying that the family had gathered for a bedside vigil as Adam's condition worsened.

She said Adam Cook, an attorney also survived by the couple's 7-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter, had decided to stop his chemotherapy treatments early this year after they failed to help his advanced brain cancer.

"He was so sick and so worn out he just made that decision. That was his choice. It was because he was just so tired," said Henricks.

Adam is the eldest of Cook's brothers. A younger sibling, Andrew, also tried out for the show but didn't make it to Hollywood.

The death was first reported by People.com.

Ron Howard movie 'Parenthood' reborn as NBC series

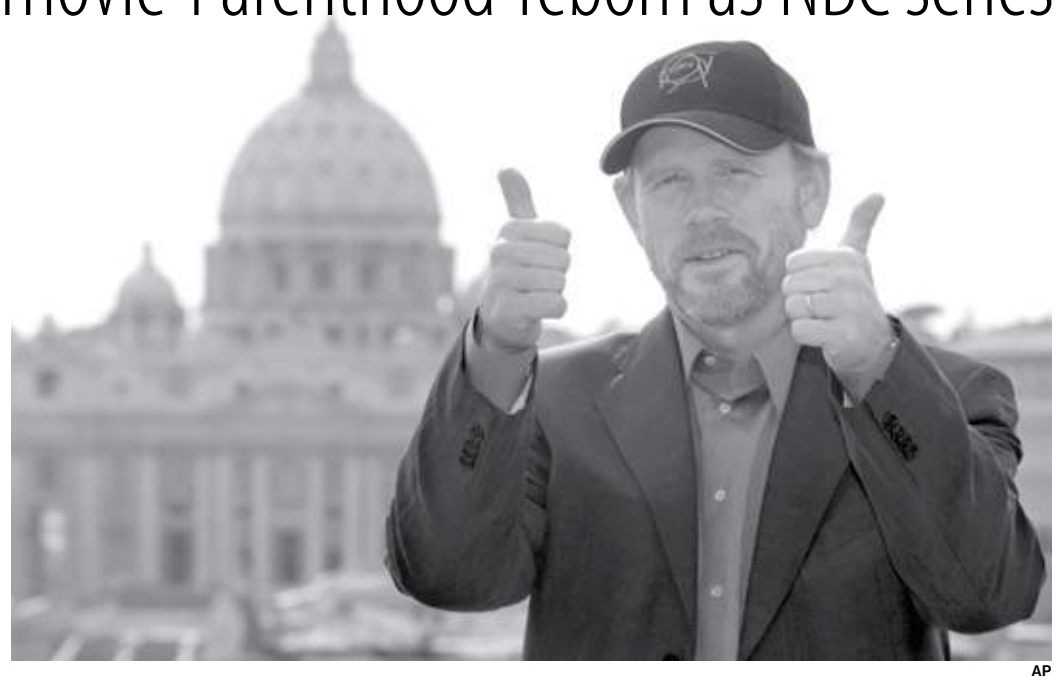
LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 1989 movie "Parenthood" is going to be reborn as an NBC TV series.

According to people familiar with NBC's plans, the "Parenthood" drama will be part of the network's lineup next season.

The people declined to be identified because they weren't authorized to announce the show before NBC's scheduled unveiling Monday of its new series pickups.

The "Parenthood" cast includes Peter Krause, Maura Tierney and Craig T. Nelson.

Ron Howard, who directed the film "Parenthood," is an executive producer on the hour-long show about an extended family dealing with life's pressures.



AP

Director Ron Howard gives the thumbs up during the photo call for the World Premiere of the movie "Angels & Demons", in front of St. Peter's Basilica, in Rome, Sunday, May 3, 2009.

Comedian Robert Schimmel arrested in assault case

CALABASAS, Calif. (AP)—Standup comic Robert Schimmel has been arrested on suspicion of beating his wife.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Jay Royal says the 59-year-old comedian was taken into custody early Saturday after an alleged fight at his home in Calabasas.

Schimmel was booked in the county jail for investigation of spousal assault. He was later released on $50,000 bail.

A call seeking comment from Schimmel's agent was not immediately returned.

The comedian has been a frequent guest on Conan O'Brien's TV show and on Howard Stern's radio program. His 2008 memoir "Cancer on $5 a Day" chronicles his battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

MTV bets on British model for daily culture show

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV has been without a show that has defined pop culture since the demise of "Total Request Live" and is betting on a 25-year-old British model who dates a rock star to help fill that void.

"The Alexa Chung Show" will be a mix of celebrity talk, music and online interaction with viewers. The stakes are high; it's the most important of nine new series the slumping MTV has in the works. The midday series begins June 15.

MTV's viewership for the first three months of 2009 is down 18 percent from the year before. The docu-soap "The Hills" is still popular, and MTV is generating modest heat with the competition "America's Best Dance Crew," but it has lacked the daily stop-off point for stars that "TRL" provided before its slow demise and cancellation last November.

At its height, during the 'N Sync and Britney Spears years, "TRL" set the tone for the music business and drew huge crowds to MTV's Times Square studio.

Chung, who has been on TV shows since she was 18 and now dates Arctic Monkeys singer Alex Turner, is a fresh face able to relate to both stars and the audience at home, network executives said.

AP

In this publicity image released by MTV, British model Alexa Chung, is shown.

"We just all really fell for her," said David Sirulnick, MTV's executive vice president for news and production.

The idea is to introduce Chung's show at midday for young viewers home for the summer and, if it works out well, move later to an after-school time slot.

Facebook is working with MTV as a partner in the series. MTV wants to use Facebook and Twitter to reach viewers in a way that "TRL"—which asked viewers to vote on their favorite videos—could barely touch upon.

"The show will air one hour a day," Sirulnick said. "but for the other 23 hours we want viewers to be engaged with Alexa and what is on the show."

Sirulnick said MTV has been searching for the last few years for someone to build a show around.

MTV is going against the grain in that many young viewers are seeking a version of comfort TV, given the popularity of reruns of "George Lopez" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," said Brian Graden, MTV's entertainment president.

Charges dropped against 'Tudors' producer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal charges against producer Gary Howsam have been dismissed, ending what he called a long ordeal.

A federal judge on Monday approved a request by prosecutors to dismiss federal charges of bank fraud and making false statements on a loan document. He was indicted days after his November 2007 arrest, which Howsam said put an abrupt slowdown to his career.

It ended his producing role on Showtime's series "The Tudors," and kept him from pursuing other projects, he said.

He was accused of using bogus contracts with foreign distributors to help secure millions to finance the 2000 film, "Going Back."

Howsam and his lawyer, Donald Randolph, say the case was dismissed because they were able to discredit statements by Harel Goldstein, a man convicted of similar charges who implicated Howsam in the scheme.

"Ultimately the prosecutors had the courage to dismiss a case, even though it had been prosecuted for 18 months," Randolph said. Randolph said he couldn't recall a similar occurrence in his 35 years as an attorney.

Parents are hurt when teen turns her back on her family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My only child, "Lauren," is 16. Her boyfriend, "Scott," treated her well when they first started dating a year ago. Now he talks down to her, makes fun of her and breaks up with her every other week for a few days. Lauren doesn't talk to us about these break-ups or anything else. She talks to Scott's mom and dad and believes everything they tell her.

Lauren used to be close to my sister and her kids, but now she ignores them. She would stay at Scott's 24/7 if we'd let her. She goes there even when he's not home, and has asked if she could spend the night over there. Of course, we refused.

We're not bad parents. Her friends all tell our daughter how lucky she is. Lauren has a nice car, pretty clothes and just about everything she wants. She doesn't have chores, but she holds down a part-time job for spending money.

I don't know why she allows Scott to disrespect her and why she has forsaken her family. We liked Scott and his family at first—until they started turning our daughter against us. She'll be 18 before long, and I don't want to lose my daughter. Help!

TROUBLED MOM IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TROUBLED MOM: Your daughter "has a nice car, pretty clothes and just about everything she wants." Nowhere in your letter did you mention discipline and accountability. "Chores" are for more than spending money. They reinforce the idea that a child is a contributing member of the family.

Your daughter is 16, thinks she's in love and has no experience. Scott's behavior is emotionally abusive, and he breaks up with her regularly because he wants some freedom. I don't know what your daughter is getting from Scott's parents—perhaps it's "hope" that their son really is Prince Charming. (Not.)

I applaud the fact that you didn't allow your daughter to spend the night with him. There is still time for you and your husband to impose some rules in your home, and I hope you will do so. Family counseling could help open the lines of communication, and you should get some right away.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: One of my co-workers has been conducting long phone calls with her newly married daughter, who seems to be having marital troubles. The conversations are interesting and quite personal. Sometimes I feel awkward hearing all the uncomfortable details, but the calls are impossible to ignore in our quiet little office.

How do I tactfully let the offender know she's broadcasting her daughter's private life to the entire office? One would think her many personal calls would weigh upon her conscience, but she seems oblivious.

Should I send an anonymous note, let the office manager deal with it or let it go? I'm ashamed to admit it, but I can't wait to hear the next installment of "My Daughter Is Too Incompetent to Handle Her Own Life."

HOOKED ON THE DRAMA

DEAR HOOKED: How well do you know your co-worker? If you're at all friendly, do her a favor and tell her the phone calls have become a topic of conversation in the office. If you are not close and the calls keep you from getting your work done, then say something to the office manager because what the woman is doing is unprofessional.

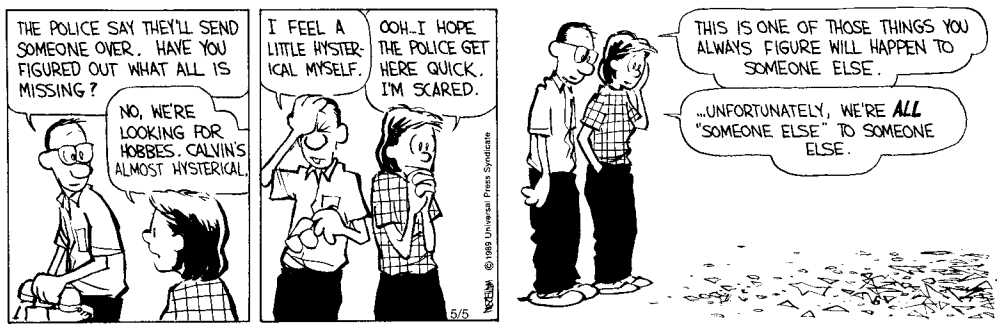
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE POLICE SAY THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE OVER. HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT ALL IS MISSING?
NO, WE'RE LOOKING FOR HOBBES. CALVIN'S ALMOST HYSTERICAL.
I FEEL A LITTLE HYSTERICAL MYSELF.
OOH..I HOPE THE POLICE GET HERE QUICK. I'M SCARED.
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5/5
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU ALWAYS FIGURE WILL HAPPEN TO SOMEONE ELSE.
...UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE ALL "SOMEONE ELSE" TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HI!
JIM DAVIS 5-5
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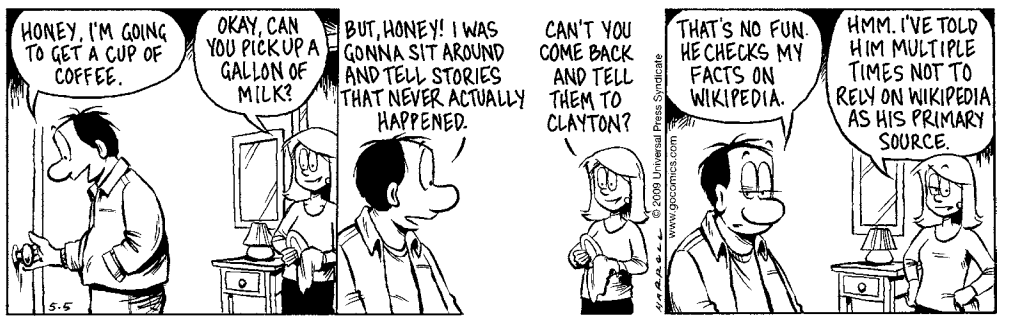
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
SCHWACK
I AM TAKING YOU OFF MY BUDDY LIST!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, I'M GOING TO GET A CUP OF COFFEE.
OKAY, CAN YOU PICK UP A GALLON OF MILK?
BUT, HONEY! I WAS GONNA SIT AROUND AND TELL STORIES THAT NEVER ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
5-5
CAN'T YOU COME BACK AND TELL THEM TO CLAYTON?
THAT'S NO FUN. HE CHECKS MY FACTS ON WIKIPEDIA.
HMM. I'VE TOLD HIM MULTIPLE TIMES NOT TO RELY ON WIKIPEDIA AS HIS PRIMARY SOURCE.
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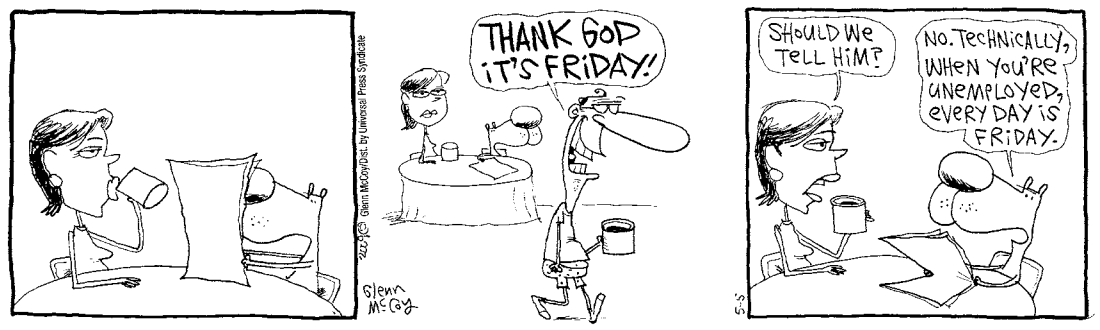
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Amorphous movie monster
5 Zero
8 Cold War initials
12 Philbin's co-host
13 Raw rock
14 Entreaty
15 Exam format
16 Michael Jackson step
18 Portable music player
20 Two under par
21 Help
22 Supporting
23 NYC borough
26 Authoritative command
30 Oklahoma city
31 April 15 payment
32 — de deux
33 — bread
36 Become less intense
38 Boston team, for short
39 Make marginalia
40 Marble type
43 Wacko
47 Courtroom agenda
49 Get wind of
50 Duel tool
51 Bookie's due, briefly
52 Therefore
53 Line of fashion?
54 Hearty brew
55 Serves the purpose

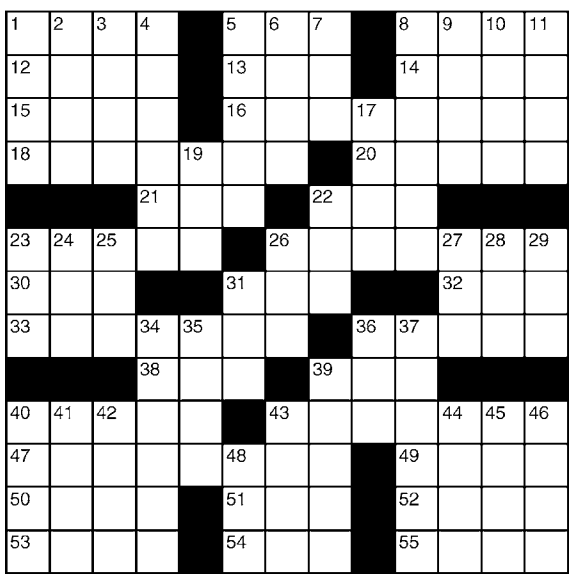
DOWN

1 Forehead
2 Old Italian money
3 October birthstone
4 Romanian, e.g.
5 Wanderer
6 Press
7 Zodiac cat
8 To the sky
9 Refinery waste
10 Hawk
11 Croupier's tool
17 Night light?
19 Blend
22 Send quickly
23 Foul
24 Mineral stat
25 Feedbag tidbit
26 Welcome sight?
27 Suitable
28 Greek cross
29 Kreskin's claim
31 Monkey suit
34 Honor
35 Yuletide refrain
36 Parcel of land
37 Left a good impression?
39 Arbiter
40 Experts
41 Stare openmouthed
42 Cruising
43 Perform perfectly
44 Re planes
45 Wise one
46 Cupid's alias
48 Eggs

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	D	S	■	D	D	T	■	L	A	R	D
E	P	I	C	■	A	N	I	■	O	L	I	O
T	E	S	H	■	C	A	M	P	A	I	G	N
E	X	C	E	P	T	■	E	L	D	E	S	T
■	■	■	M	A	Y	S	■	Y	E	N	■	■
C	A	M	E	L	L	I	A	■	D	A	T	E
O	B	I	■	M	I	S	D	O	■	T	E	E
G	A	S	P	■	C	A	M	P	B	E	L	L
■	■	■	N	A	Y	■	L	I	A	R	■	■
S	N	O	R	E	D	■	R	H	E	S	U	S
C	A	M	I	S	O	L	E	■	A	N	N	A
A	M	E	N	■	M	A	R	■	S	O	T	S
B	E	R	G	■	E	M	S	■	T	W	O	S

Yesterday's answer 5-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Henry Cavill, 26; Craig David, 28; Danielle Fishel, 28; Richard E. Grant, 52

Happy Birthday: Talk through any personal problems you are facing. Simply ignoring what's going on around you will lead to your demise. Your goals are within reach, so don't sit back and wait for opportunities to come to you. Take the lead and start the ball rolling. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 28, 36, 40, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Talk shop. Your energy and dynamic approach will capture interest. You will change your mind many times regarding your direction and the people you are dealing with, so don't be too quick to make changes. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You should be able to convince others you are the right person to head up a new project or make decisions that will bring about change. Others will relate to your conservative outlook and ability to get things done. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can use your past accomplishments to move into a situation that allows you to call the shots. Love is in the stars and someone you are fond of will make your life better with news you've been longing to hear. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you don't act on impulse, you will lose something that means a lot to you. Problems at home will develop if you don't address issues head-on. You can benefit from change if you go about it the right way. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your spirit and enthusiasm will motivate others who will, in turn, help you. Talk to someone face-to-face. Mix business with pleasure and you will gain friends as well as new clients and colleagues. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't fall into the lazy category just because you don't like what's going on around you. Instead, pick up the slack and get things moving. You'll soon be in control and making a difference. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Let your thoughts be heard. Do not hold back to spare someone's feelings. Lay your cards on the table so that you can proceed in the direction of your choice without feeling guilty. It's a new day with a bright future ahead. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't second-guess what you know in your heart you must do. Brave the storm and you will figure out a way to turn what you have worked so hard to achieve into something great. Don't be discouraged by the uncertainty at home. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make some changes to your home. Change is good and will motivate you to take on greater tasks. An emotional relationship can flourish if you aren't afraid to share your feelings. Don't give away your secrets. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let emotional issues sidetrack you. A purchase for your home or an investment that can help you build greater equity should be your top priority. A friend or relative will disappoint you or cause you grief. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be sure before you make a statement you may have to live with for a long time. Instead, immerse yourself in something you enjoy working on. You are ready for a change but it has to come from within, not by following what someone else wants you to do. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't question others and you won't be criticized in return. Emotions will hit a high point if you disrupt a relationship by changing your plans suddenly. Talks will help to mend an old partnership that went sour. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have drive and ambition and will push your way to the top. You are patient and prudent. You see situations clearly and act with precision.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	7		4	8			
		2		7				4
							6	7
7				1				
8	5						4	9
				9				2
9	8							
4				2		3		
			6	8		9	5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	5	1	4	7	8	6	2
2	4	8	3	6	5	9	7	1
1	6	7	8	2	9	5	4	3
6	3	2	5	9	8	7	1	4
8	5	4	7	1	6	2	3	9
9	7	1	4	3	2	6	5	8
4	2	9	6	5	1	3	8	7
5	8	3	2	7	4	1	9	6
7	1	6	9	8	3	4	2	5

Difficulty Level ★ 5/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS **Solution: 9 letters**

A	S	C	S	E	L	C	I	T	R	A	P	G	C	M
K	P	M	O	S	A	R	U	A	U	R	O	R	A	S
S	I	P	O	L	I	G	H	T	O	D	A	G	N	R
A	R	G	E	T	O	D	Q	T	D	L	N	R	A	I
L	A	O	A	A	A	R	O	E	O	E	O	G	D	N
A	L	O	R	N	R	N	S	P	T	R	R	E	A	G
D	I	S	C	O	S	S	B	O	R	E	A	L	I	S
L	N	E	T	R	U	I	S	I	E	M	A	E	T	H
E	G	B	I	O	H	P	M	N	A	R	R	C	H	A
I	(E)	A	C	C	H	A	I	N	U	A	E	T	E	P
F	(L)	Y	T	E	G	S	I	T	Y	F	E	R	M	E
L	(O)	A	R	E	H	T	A	S	F	T	A	O	I	D
A	(P)	E	R	I	O	N	S	E	S	C	S	N	S	A
S	D	N	A	B	O	T	O	H	P	U	L	S	E	W
H	D	N	A	L	N	I	F	Y	A	W	R	O	N	N

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Alaska, Appears, Arctic, Atoms, Auras, Auroras, Bands, Borealis, Canada, Colors, Corona, Dance, Dawn, Effect, Electrons, Field, Finland, Flash, Goddess, Goose Bay, Greenish, Image, Ions, Light, Magnetosphere, Manitoba, Mirror, Natural, Norway, Particles, Patch, Photo, Polar, Pole, Protons, Pulse, Rays, Ring-shaped, Russia, Spiraling, THEMIS

Yesterday's Answer: Kickstand

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DRAWING BOARD

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2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAC
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesia su
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new

235- NEWS

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Hawks advance with one final blowout

ATLANTA (AP)—The final blowout went to Atlanta, so it's the Hawks who'll get a shot at LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Joe Johnson scored 27 points to make up for a mostly disappointing series and the Hawks won the first Game 7 ever played in Atlanta, beating Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat 91-78 Sunday to advance to the second round of the NBA playoffs for the first time in a decade.

A series totally devoid of drama ended in appropriate fashion. After a back-and-forth first quarter that ended with Atlanta ahead 20-18, the Hawks pulled out to a 49-36 lead by halftime.

They might as well have started the celebration right then. There were only 15 lead changes in seven games—not one of them after the opening period. Every game was decided by at least 10 points, and this one wasn't nearly as close as the final margin.

Johnson got off to a sluggish start but came alive when the Hawks needed him. His most dramatic shot was a long 3-pointer over Wade from out near Atlanta's winged logo at center court, which left the Miami star standing there with a look of disbelief.

The Hawks turned the contest into a laugher in the final quarter. Flip Murray hit a 3-pointer to give Atlanta its biggest lead, 85-66, and both teams cleared their benches in the closing minutes as Miami's reserves outplayed the home team's substitutions to make the end result somewhat respectable.

Things got ugly in the closing minutes while the Hawks fans chanted "Hey, hey, hey, goodbye!" Zaza Pachulia, who provided more quality minutes off the bench, drove to the hoop and was collared around the neck by Udonis Haslem. The Miami forward was tossed out of the game for a flagrant foul, while Atlanta coach Mike Woodson charged onto the court to make sure no punches were thrown.

The Hawks will need everyone for the Cavaliers, the top seed in the playoffs. Game 1 is Tuesday night in Cleveland.

The Heat is done, their finale epitomized by Haslem's inglorious exit. He ripped off his jersey on the way to the locker room, throwing it into the crowd before he disappeared down the tunnel.

Still, it was quite a comeback season for Wade and the Heat, who bounced back from a dismal 15-67 record to make the playoffs as the fifth seed in the East.

Wade scored 31 points but the majority of those came after the Hawks had already built a comfortable lead. Bothered by back spasms throughout the series, he didn't have enough help from his young teammates to get through to a matchup against James in the second round.

Instead, it's the Hawks moving on. Red and silver streamers fell from the roof of Philips Arena as the horn sounded, celebrating the team's first playoff series win since a five-game triumph over Detroit in 1999. That team was swept by New York in the next round and then drifted into irrelevance, enduring nine straight losing seasons before this year's 47-35 mark was good enough for home-court advantage in the opening round of the playoffs.

A year ago, the Hawks learned the benefits of playing Game 7 at home. After taking the eventual NBA champion Celtics to the limit, Atlanta was blown out in the decisive game at Boston. This time, the Hawks got to play at home, and the doled out the same treatment to Miami.

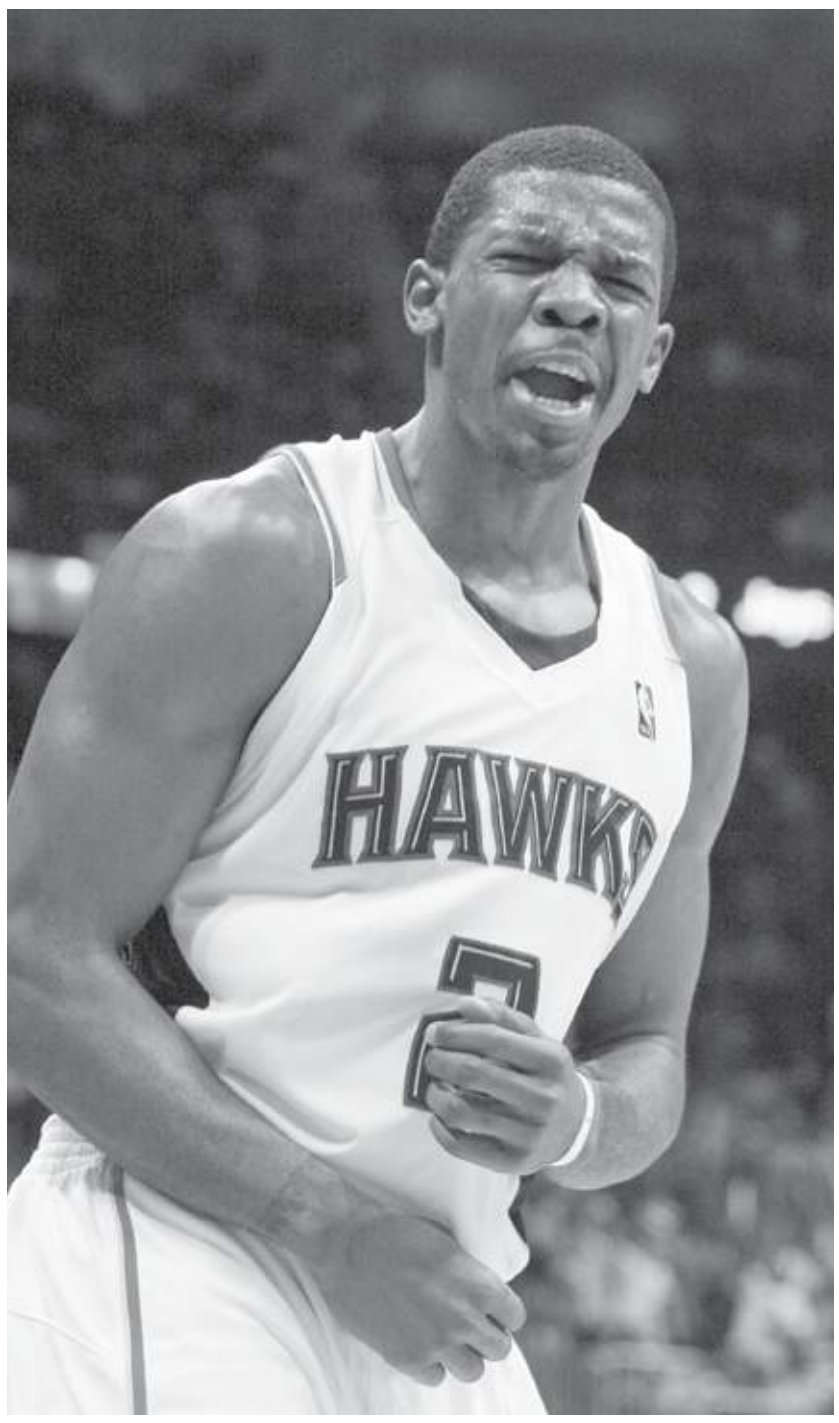
Mike Bibby might have been the Hawks most valuable player in the series. He scored 11 points, including a couple of 3s, and doled out six assists. He even stood up to Woodson when the coach complained about Josh Smith putting up an errant 3-pointer from the corner.

When Woodson called his point guard over, Bibby shot back with an expletive. "Y'all tell him to move," Bibby growled. Woodson simply turned away, rubbing his goattee and smiling slightly.

Smith played well despite the occasional gaffe, finishing with 21 points and, as usual, a couple of thunderous dunks that brought the less-than-sellout crowd to its feet.

Michael Beasley had 17 points and Haslem 14—the only other Miami players in double figures.

As if playing a Game 7 in Atlanta wasn't unusual enough, the Hawks actually won one for the first time since 1961—when the franchise was still in St. Louis. That Bob Pettit-led team defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in the decisive contest before losing to Boston in the finals.



AP

Atlanta Hawks' Joe Johnson reacts after hitting a three-point basket in the second quarter of Game 7 of the Eastern Conference NBA basketball playoff series against the Miami Heat, Sunday, May 3, 2009.

Nuggets 109, Mavericks 95

At Denver, Nene kept Denver in it until his teammates could turn this one into another runaway.

Nene scored 18 of his career playoff high 24 points in the first half and the Denver Nuggets raced past the Dallas Mavericks in the first day game in the Pepsi Center's 10-year history.

Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points, including a dunk off J.R. Smith's behind-the-back assist that rocked the arena in the closing minutes. Smith added 15 points, leading a bench that outscored Dallas' celebrated reserves 38-24 before both teams emptied their benches in the meaningless final minutes.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 28 points and 10 boards and Josh Howard, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry each scored 15.

Game 2 is Tuesday night at the Pepsi Center, where the Nuggets have won 14 straight, including four in the playoffs. All four have been blowouts.

Cowboys staffer paralyzed after accident

IRVING, Texas (AP)—A Dallas Cowboys scouting assistant was permanently paralyzed from the waist down after his spine was severed during the collapse of the team's tent-like practice structure in a severe storm.

The team announced Rich Behm was in stable condition at Parkland Hospital on Sunday after surgery to stabilize a fracture to the thoracic spine.

The 33-year-old Behm was among a dozen people hurt in the accident Saturday, and was one of three Cowboys staffers who remained hospitalized.

Joe DeCamillis, 43, the team's new special teams coach, sustained a fracture of one of his cervical vertebrae without paralysis. He was in stable condition at Parkland and scheduled for surgery Monday.

Assistant athletic trainer Greg Gaither, 35, had surgery Saturday night to repair a fracture to the tibia and fibula in his right leg. He is expected to be released from the Baylor Regional Medical Center later this week.

"To the Behm family we extend our love, comfort, and the full support of every person and resource within the organization," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement. "Rich is a courageous member of our family and someone for whom we care deeply. We ask for all friends and fans of the Dallas Cowboys to join us in embracing him and his family with their thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time."

Behm has a brother who works in the Cowboys television department.

Jones, who was attending the Kentucky Derby on Saturday when the accident occurred, didn't stop to talk to media outside the team's Valley Ranch headquarters Sunday morning when he arrived or left.

Jones had a somber look on his face and his hands tucked in his pockets when he surveyed the mangled mess.

About 70 people, including 27 players attending a rookie minicamp, were in the structure when the storm hit. Wind in the area around that time was clocked at 64 mph, a single mph shy of the threshold for a weak tornado.

National Weather Service officials said a "microburst" may have pushed the wind beyond 70 mph at the top of the structure that was built in 2003.

Most of the 27 players taking part in the minicamp were drafted the previous weekend or signed as undrafted rookies. None of the team's veterans were involved. Coaches, support staff and media were also in the structure.

The final scheduled practice of the three-day minicamp was canceled Sunday, though the players attended meetings. Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said all 27 players were there Sunday, and that none were considered among the injured.

Media were restricted from the Cowboys headquarters Sunday, a ban the team said would continue through at least the next week "due to ongoing work that is scheduled to take place in the aftermath of the accident."

The players arrived together Sunday morning on a bus from the hotel where they were staying. They were off limits to the media, and instructed by the team not to talk about what had happened.

Dalrymple said Jones spent "considerable time" Saturday night and Sunday visiting those in the hospital.

"As we share concern for everyone who was touched by this accident, we also extend our heartfelt and best wishes to Coach Joe DeCamillis and his family as they prepare for Joe's surgery," Jones said. "We are grateful that Greg Gaither's surgery was successful, and we feel blessed that others involved were able to walk away from this accident after receiving medical attention."

Hatton's dad says beaten son won't rush to quit

LONDON (AP)—Ricky Hatton's father says his son won't hurry a decision on whether to retire after being knocked out by Manny Pacquiao in the second round of their 140-pound title fight.

After being knocked down twice in the opening round, the 30-year-old Briton was flattened in the second by Pacquiao's left cross in Las Vegas on Saturday night for his second defeat in 47 fights.

After spending several minutes on his back in the ring, the two-time light-welterweight world champion had to be taken to a hospital for a precautionary brain scan, which the father said revealed no damage.

"He's perfectly all right," Ray Hatton told BBC Radio Five on Sunday. "They've checked him out. He's had all the tests and everything. He's not got a mark on him."

However, the loss may leave a lasting mark on Ricky Hatton's confidence, with his flimsy defense making him an easy target.

Ray Hatton said his son, whose other loss was a 10th-round knockout defeat to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in December 2007, would now have to consider whether to carry on.

"Obviously, we will support him in whatever he does and we'll leave that with him," Hatton said. "At this moment in time, he's probably got a few mixed feelings about it. He'll make that decision whichever way he wants to and the family will support him."

Ray Hatton said his son did not need to continue boxing for the money, and that the fighter was convinced he had caught Pacquiao with some good punches.

"He just said, 'The old heart ruled the head again, Dad; steaming in, got my warning signs in the first round. Set off OK at the start of the second round, caught Manny with a few shots. Really worried Manny a little bit. Manny was just throwing wild shots.' He said, 'Then the heart ruled the head again and I went steaming in.'"

Sean O'Hair rallies to win at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A narrow victory at Quail Hollow came with a large dose of redemption for Sean O'Hair.

Five weeks after he blew a five-shot lead against Tiger Woods at Bay Hill, O'Hair showed his mettle in hard, blustery conditions Sunday with a 3-under 69 and rallied to win the Quail Hollow Championship when no one could catch him.

Despite a bogey-bogey finish on the two hardest holes on the course, O'Hair was the only player in the final nine groups to break 70.

He took the lead on the 15th with a two-putt birdie from 70 feet, then holed an 7-foot birdie on the 16th to give him room for error on the frightening finishing holes.

O'Hair was on the putting green when Lucas Glover failed to make birdie from behind the 18th green that would have forced a playoff. Glover, who bogeyed the par-3 17th from right of the green, closed with a 71 and tied for second with Bubba Watson, who had a 70.

Woods struggled with his game throughout the final round, but he still had a chance to tie for the lead when he drove the par-4 14th green and had an eagle putt from just inside 25 feet. He three-putted for par, failed to birdie the par-5 15th and closing with 10 consecutive pars left him two shots behind with a 72.

Woods hung around long enough to congratulate O'Hair, who was holding 4-year-old daughter Molly.

"It feels so good, especially finishing the way I did," O'Hair said. "I played so good on the back."

He has been playing as well as anyone, but it was hard to forget his final round at Bay Hill. He had a five-shot lead over Woods, losing by one shot when Woods birdied the 18th hole.

Watson, who has never won on the PGA Tour or Nationwide Tour, was atop the leaderboard for most of the back nine until he couldn't make the short putts required of champions. He missed from 6 feet for birdie on the 15th, and the same distance on the 16th.

Glover also missed a 5-foot birdie putt on the 15th that ultimately cost him.

Birdies are rare on the closing stretch known as the "Green Mile," with only two birdies all day on peninsula-green 17th. O'Hair and Glover missed to the right, both chipped across the green and had to work hard for bogeys.

O'Hair allowed for a few nervous moments when he three-putted for bogey from 25 feet on the 18th. Playing in the final group, Glover's approach bounded over the green, and his birdie chip came up short.

O'Hair won for the third time in his career and will move up to No. 12 in the world ranking, his highest position ever. He finished at 11-under 277 and earned $1.17 million, pushing him just short of $3 million for the year, more than he has ever made in any one season.

Woods was in trouble from the opening tee shot, deep into the trees that left him no choice to play out to the fairway and struggle to make bogey. Still, he managed to stay in the picture with a creative pitch that spun back to tap-in birdie range on the eighth.

That would be his last birdie of a frustrating week.

Zach Johnson, who had a two-shot lead to start the final round, imploded on the par-3 second hole. He shoved his tee shot so far right that it struck a cart path and went deep into the pines. His pitch struck a tree and went behind a bush, and when he finally reached the green, he three-putted for triple bogey. The former Masters champion never recovered, closing with a 76.

Some of the best golf came from the middle of the pack.

Jonathan Byrd had a 66 to post early at 8-under 280, and Phil Mickelson made late charge until he had to settle for pars on his last four holes for a 67 that also put him at 280.

"I didn't think about winning until the last four or five holes," Mickelson said.

The leaders were all over the place. Johnson made an early departure, as did George McNeill, who shot a 41 on the front nine. The tournament was up for grabs for a half-dozen players, and O'Hair seized his moment.

For three rounds, he did not make a single bogey over the final three holes. On Sunday, he played well enough that he could afford two of them and still capture his biggest PGA Tour victory.

Sean O'Hair poses with the trophy after winning the Quail Hollow Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, May 3, 2009.
AP

Crawford swipes 6 bases in Rays win

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Carl Crawford tied a modern major league record with six stolen bases to help Tampa Bay beat Boston 5-3 on Sunday for its first series win in nearly a month.

Crawford was 4-for-4 with an RBI and became the fourth player to swipe six bases in a game, joining Eddie Collins, Otis Nixon, and Eric Young.

James Shields (3-2) shrugged off a shaky start to pitch into the eighth inning, and Tampa Bay won three of four, outscoring the Red Sox 30-15 and improving to 5-2 against its AL East rivals. The Rays had dropped six consecutive series since taking two of three from Boston when the teams met at Fenway Park the opening week of the season.

Brad Penny (2-1) took the loss.

Tigers 3, Indians 1

At Detroit, Justin Verlander struck out 11 and Curtis Granderson delivered another go-ahead hit as the Tigers beat the Indians.

Verlander (2-2) allowed one run and two hits in seven innings. Last Monday, he fanned nine in seven shutout innings against the New York Yankees.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 3

At Toronto, Vernon Wells hit a two-run homer, Alex Rios added a solo shot and the Blue Jays completed a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

The Orioles have lost six straight and 14 of 17 following a 6-2 start. Baltimore is 0-12 this season when scoring fewer than five runs.

Royals 7, Twins 5

At Minneapolis, Jose Guillen homered and drove in four runs, rallying the Royals past Minnesota after Twins starter Scott Baker carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning.

Guillen's three-run shot accounted for the first runs off Baker (0-4), who flirted with Minnesota's first no-hitter since 1999. But he gave up five consecutive hits in the seventh and failed to record an out as the Royals overcame their largest deficit this season to take two of three in the series.

Mariners 8, Athletics 7, 15 innings

At Seattle, Jose Lopez blooped an RBI single in the 15th inning and the Mariners, after pulling off a pair of late rallies, beat Oakland in the longest game in the majors this season.

Kenji Johjima hit a tying homer in the ninth off Russ Springer, and Ichiro Suzuki's two-out single in the 13th capped a three-run comeback for Seattle. A throwing error by Dana Eveland (1-2), who started Friday night and pitched 4 2-3 innings, set up the winning run.

Rangers 5, White Sox 1

At Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler hit another leadoff home run and Matt Harrison pitched five scoreless innings to help Texas beat Chicago.

Kinsler's second leadoff homer in three games was the eighth of his career, already matching the Rangers record early in the All-Star second baseman's fourth season.

Pirates 5, Reds 0

At Pittsburgh, Johnny Cueto limited the Pirates to four singles while striking out nine during eight dominating innings, and Ramon Hernandez drove in three runs to lead Cincinnati past Pittsburgh for another road series victory.

The Reds pitched shutouts in each of their two victories in the three-game series and now have won each of their four series on the road, where they are 9-4. Their five shutouts in 24 games lead the majors and are only one fewer than last season's total.

Astros 7, Braves 5

At Atlanta, Michael Bourn had three hits, including a seventh-inning single to drive in the go-ahead run, as the Astros beat the Braves and won a series in Atlanta for the first time in five years.

Bourn's bunt single was the first of four straight hits for the Astros in a three-run sixth inning. He broke a 4-4 tie by driving in Geoff Blum with a single off Peter Moylan in the seventh.

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 3

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder and Mike Cameron hit back-to-back homers, and the Brewers beat the Diamondbacks to split their four-game series.

The Brewers squandered a three-run lead by giving up three homers in the seventh inning, but they regrouped. Chris Duffy hit an RBI groundout in the eighth, and Trevor Hoffman closed it out.

Cubs 6, Marlins 4

At Chicago, Derrek Lee hit a grand slam shortly after Cubs ace Carlos Zambrano hurt himself beating out a bunt single, and Chicago beat the Marlins.

Zambrano strained his left hamstring and left the game in the fifth inning. Lee connected four batters later for a 6-2 lead.

Giants 1, Rockies 0

At San Francisco, Rich Aurilia drove in Steve Holm with a 10th-inning single to end a pitching-dominated afternoon with the Giants' victory over the Rockies.

Barry Zito pitched seven innings of two-hit ball in another outstanding start for the Giants, retiring 15 straight batters and allowing just one runner to reach second base. Jason Hammel matched Zito with six scoreless innings in just his second start for the Rockies.

Dodgers 7, Padres 3

At Los Angeles, Chad Billingsley completed seven innings for the third straight start, Orlando Hudson drove in three runs with a pair of doubles and the Dodgers beat the Padres to set a franchise record for the best home winning streak to begin a season.

The 10-0 start at Chavez Ravine eclipsed the mark set at Ebbets Field by the 1946 Brooklyn Dodgers, when current manager Joe Torre was 5 years old and growing up in the borough.

NMC Foundation Open set for June 13

To advance post secondary education in the CNMI, golfers will once again be meeting on the links at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort for the 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for June 13, 2009.

The golf tournament is organized by the NMC Foundation, a non-profit organization composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher educational opportunities for CNMI students. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's educational programs and services.

"Over the years, the NMC Foundation Open has built a loyal following of golfers who are dedicated to helping the College," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta. "We are extremely thankful for their continued support and look forward to seeing them on the golf course in June."

"We're also encouraging golfers who have not played in the Foundation Open before to join us this year," Babauta added. "All funds raised will help our students meet their educational goals, so it's win-win situation for everyone."

With a shotgun start at 7am, the tournament is a medal play format and a special double peoria on all mens' flight. In addition to first, second, and third place prizes for the flights, the tournament will include hole-in-one prizes. The lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one shot at the designated sites will win considerable prizes donated by the tournament's sponsors.

The entrance fee for the tournament is only $85 per player. Interested players are invited to bring their family, friends and playing partners for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause.

The NMC Foundation is also asking companies or individuals who can contribute monetary or in-kind donations to sponsor the tournament. A special sponsors cocktail party on June 12 at the Chambre Bar of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Those interested in sponsoring the event or who are interested in registering to play can contact NMC at 234-5498 extension 1050 or 1051. ***(PR)***

Deadline for Spearfishing tourney this May 9

The 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament organized by the Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club is fast approaching and those interested have until this Saturday, May 9, to cast their entries.

MASC president Morito Asai said would-be participants can submit their entries no later than 5pm this Saturday at his Aquasmith Dive Shop in Garapan.

Participants from Tinian, Rota, Guam, or other island residents can also send their entries through e-mail (dive@aquasmith.com) and payments can be made a day before the tournament.

Asai earlier announced that the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament will be held on May 16 with participants' launching point at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The tournament starts at 6am and last until 4pm with no limitation on the area of coverage. The spearfishing area includes Tinian or Goat Island, except sanctuary and dive spots, and the Banzai Cliff area.

Categories to be contested are biggest fish (first prize only) and total weight, which includes individual (first to third) and team (first to 10th places). The MASC president said there would be no fish category this year to minimize the time for weigh-ins.

Asai said MASC will only accept a catch that is at least 11 lbs. The entry fee per person is $50.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament, contact Asai at dive@aquasmith.com.

Last year, Guam's Mike Genereaux won the tournament by topping the individual total weight category, while Scott Moen of Rota won the biggest fish category. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	18	9	.667	-
Boston	15	10	.600	2
New York	13	11	.542	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	11	15	.423	6 1/2
Baltimore	9	16	.360	8

Central Division

Kansas City	14	11	.560	-
Detroit	13	11	.542	1/2
Chicago	12	11	.522	1
Minnesota	12	13	.480	2
Cleveland	9	16	.360	5

West Division

Seattle	14	10	.583	-
Texas	12	12	.500	2
Los Angeles	10	13	.435	3 1/2
Oakland	9	13	.409	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	14	11	.560	-
Philadelphia	12	10	.545	1/2
Atlanta	11	13	.458	2 1/2
New York	10	13	.435	3
Washington	6	17	.261	7

Central Division

St. Louis	17	8	.680	-
Chicago	13	11	.542	3 1/2
Cincinnati	13	11	.542	3 1/2
Milwaukee	13	12	.520	4
Pittsburgh	12	12	.500	4 1/2
Houston	11	14	.440	6

West Division

Los Angeles	18	8	.692	-
San Francisco	12	11	.522	4 1/2
Arizona	11	14	.440	6 1/2
San Diego	11	14	.440	6 1/2
Colorado	9	14	.391	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 7, Atlanta 5
Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 0
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, ppd.,
St. Louis at Washington, ppd., Rain
Milwaukee 4, Arizona 3
Chicago Cubs 6, Florida 4
San Francisco 1, Colorado 0, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 3
Detroit 3, Cleveland 1
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, ppd.,
Toronto 4, Baltimore 3
Tampa Bay 5, Boston 3
Kansas City 7, Minnesota 5
Seattle 8, Oakland 7, 15 innings
Texas 5, Chicago White Sox 1

QUAIL HOLLOW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FINAL ROUND

Sean O'Hair	69	72	67	69	277
Bubba Watson	71	65	72	70	278
Lucas Glover	68	71	68	71	278
Tiger Woods	65	72	70	72	279
Jonathan Byrd	72	72	70	66	280
Phil Mickelson	67	71	75	67	280
Tim Petrovic	71	70	71	68	280
Ted Purdy	70	69	72	69	280
Ian Poulter	71	70	70	69	280
Jason Dufner	67	71	71	71	280
Boo Weekley	71	70	72	68	281
Fredrik Jacobson	71	70	70	70	281
Jim Furyk	71	66	73	71	281
Martin Kaymer	71	70	69	71	281
Y.E. Yang	72	71	66	72	281
Retief Goosen	68	68	72	73	281
Zach Johnson	70	67	68	76	281
Shaun Micheel	74	69	73	66	282
Charles Warren	69	71	71	71	282
David Toms	71	71	67	73	282
George McNeill	69	68	70	75	282
Hunter Mahan	68	72	75	68	283
Matt Bettencourt	72	71	71	69	283
Rocco Mediate	72	70	72	69	283
Camilo Villegas	71	67	74	71	283
Bill Haas	69	71	71	72	283
Nick Watney	71	71	69	72	283
Davis Love III	70	69	70	74	283
Cameron Beckman	73	71	72	68	284
Bo Van Pelt	69	71	71	73	284
Ross Fisher	73	67	69	75	284
John Senden	71	72	73	69	285
Ben Curtis	74	70	71	70	285
Cliff Kresge	69	72	72	72	285
Joe Ogilvie	71	72	69	73	285
Geoff Ogilvy	71	73	68	73	285
Jeff Klauk	69	71	70	75	285
Tom Pernice Jr.	72	69	77	68	286
Ken Duke	70	72	73	71	286
Brian Davis	72	71	72	71	286
Michael Allen	70	73	72	71	286
Steve Marino	67	72	74	73	286
Danny Lee	71	69	70	76	286
Mathew Goggin	71	71	74	71	287
John Huston	73	71	69	74	287
Brendon de Jonge	72	69	67	79	287
Robert Allenby	67	74	77	70	288
Kevin Sutherland	71	72	75	70	288
Anthony Kim	70	69	78	71	288
Will MacKenzie	70	74	71	73	288
Martin Laird	74	70	70	74	288
Brendon Todd	70	70	72	76	288
Chris Stroud	73	69	78	69	289
Steve Wheatcroft	70	73	77	69	289
Robert Karlsson	70	69	78	72	289
Jonathan Kaye	70	72	74	73	289
Jeff Overton	70	71	73	75	289
Kent Jones	72	70	71	76	289
Steve Lowery	73	71	73	73	290
Peter Tomasulo	74	69	73	74	290
Jeff Maggert	68	70	75	77	290
John Rollins	70	74	76	71	291
Chad Campbell	72	70	73	76	291
David Mathis	70	73	72	76	291
Aron Price	71	73	78	71	293
Pat Perez	74	70	76	73	293
Trevor Immelman	73	70	76	74	293
Brad Faxon	74	69	80	71	294
Parker McLachlin	73	71	74	76	294
Steve Flesch	69	74	78	74	295
Bill Lunde	72	72	74	77	295
Mark Calcavecchia	69	74	74	78	295
Gary Woodland	70	74	76	76	296
Rich Beem	71	73	76	82	302

By The Associated Press

RED SOX

From Page 28

Survivors 11, IT&E 1

In the third game in the Majors, the Survivors walloped IT&E, 11-1.

The Survivors improved to a 6-5 record, while IT&E remained at the cellar of the 14-team field with its 1-10 mark.

Relief pitcher Caleb Takao did a good relief job on starter Gayvan Uchau at the bottom of the second inning, as the former had a no-hitter, posted eight strikeouts and walked one.

The only time IT&E scored was at the bottom of the first with John Auther's single driving Berneil Taisacan home.

Hustlers 8, Little Lions 1

In the first game, Cody Kaipat had nine strikeouts in 5.2 innings pitched to lead the Hustlers to an 8-1 triumph over the Little Lions.

The win moved the Hustlers to solo second place with their 10-2 mark. The Little Lions are at the bottom half of the team standings with their 2-9 slate.

JUNIORS

Ol'Aces 10, Lion Heart 7

LaMarc Iguel went 4-for-5 at bat to lift Ol'Aces to a 10-7 win over Lion Heart in one of the two make-up games in the Junior division played Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Iguel had two RBIs and a double in the match that was first played on Feb. 15, but was rained out at the bottom of the fourth with the game tied at 5-all.

Ol'Aces' defense held Lion Heart to only two runs in the last three innings to secure the win. The Ol'Aces leaned on a three-run top of the fifth to seize control of the game and added two more in the sixth inning for more cushion.

Red Sox 7, D-9ers 3

In another make-up game, the Red Sox topped D-9ers, 7-3.

A.J. Lizama pitched in 5.2 innings, struck out five, allowed only three hits, gave up three runs, and walked four.

After giving up three runs in the first four innings, the Red Sox's defense stepped up in the last three, shutting out the D-9ers.

WINNERS

From Page 28

and Joseph Santos.

In the Men's B division, the gold medals went to Daniel Macario and Jorge Olanda, who pulled off an upset over the then undefeated Mario Diola and Paul Navarro, 21-19, 21-16, 21-18. Edwin Maratas and Afred Acosta took the third place medals after beating the pair of Jojo Savellano and Noli Santos, 20-22, 21-10, 21-19.

In the men's C division, youth player Frank Villagomez teamed up with Rick Brien to top Arnel Banzagale and Luis Camacho, 21-14, 14-21, 21-14, and get the gold medals. The duo of Puy Macario and Chris Hilario settled for bronze.

In the women's division, Ingrid Sanchez and Cristy Villaflor and Annette Quiamba and Irene Santiago claimed gold medals in the B and C divisions, respectively.

Sanchez and Villaflor swept Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno in the finals, 23-21, 21-16, while Annarose Omori and Malou Malasarte prevailed in the third place game against the pair of Shirley Kim and Angie Ito, 21-16, 21-16.

Quiambao and Santiago took the women's C division tiara following their 21-13, 22-20 win over Hazel dela Santa and Dorie Pineda. Ruby Gozon and Jenine Savellano finished third.

NMBF also handed out three special awards with Roger Vales receiving the NMBF Honorary Award for his commitment and contribution to the association and its program. Kim, who is also NMBF's president, took the Sportsmanship Award, while youth player Daniel Macario was awarded the Most Promising Player plum.

Aguda, the tournament director, on behalf of NMBF thanked IT&E for donating the medals and for their other contributions to the success of the inaugural event.

PAIRE

From Page 28

minute. Limes made his second goal in the 38th minute.

But MPU-2 countered with two goals from Daniel Lim and one from Jake Lee to escape with a win.

According to MPU's Sue Knecht, after Limes scored twice, MPU went back to play tough defense and held its ground until the final whistle. There were also great saves from Quintin Ramsey and outstanding defense from center defender Kennedy Izuka.

In another boys U13, MPU-1 shut out Matansa FC, 3-0.

Dakota Hall made the first goal of the game in the ninth minute and added one more in the 35th minute. Jordan Bucher broke into the scoreboard with his goal in the 43rd minute.

Paire FC prevented MPU from sweeping all three boys U13 games after nailing a 4-1 win against MPU-3.

MPU's Jehn Joyner came out with a nice corner kick, paving the way for a goal from Allen Cepeda, a few minutes before the first half ended.

But that was the only time MPU scored, as Paire strikers ran the show in the succeeding minutes.

Taiga Sakai tied the game after around 10 minutes in the second half. Hunter Jewell gave Paire the lead with his go-ahead goal, while Billy Hanson made two goals to cap the win.

In the girls U13 game, Doreen Ravell scored in the second half to lift Matansa to a 1-0 victory over Independents Football Club-2

U18: IFC, MPU win

In the boys U18, IFC and MP United shutout separate foes.

IFC topped Matansa, 4-0, while MPU prevailed in similar scores over Paire FC.

In the girls U18, MPU also won, downing IFC-1, 3-0.

U8: Matansa, MPU prevail

In the co-ed U8 division, MPU-1 and Matansa G-1 beat separate opponents.

Gabriel Biadora, Haruya Eda, Clayton Izuka, Steve Floyd Martin, Justin Mike, Kyona Rivera, Madeleine Taisacan scored in MPU-1's 7-0 win over sister team MPU-3.

Matansa G-1 scored six goals apiece in the first and second half to top Paire FC-2.

U10: Tan Holdings, Matansa G-2 triumph

In the U10 division, Tan Holdings won over MPU-2, while Matansa G-2 defeated MPU-1.

SAMOANA

From Page 28

habits to make my college career worthwhile," she said.

Aside from playing for the CNMI, Ingram also admitted that she also dreams of playing hoops professionally after her collegiate stint.

"I do have dreams of playing in the WNBA. It will take a lot of hard work and dedication that I'm willing to put in.

It also came as surprise that Ingram doesn't really look up to the Lisa Leslies and Candace Parkers of the world. In fact, her basketball role models are her brother and father.

"I've never really looked up to a famous basketball player honestly. Yes I've had my favorite players, but my real role models are my dad and older brother, D.J. My dad taught us about the game and I grew up in the gym right next to my brother and learned to love the game with him as well. He has always been the person I've tried to be like," she said.

Ingram, who was born in Guam in May 15, 1991, said her mother's Chamorro culture remains firmly rooted in their Virginia home.

"There isn't a week that goes by that we don't eat Chamorro food in my house, every day and night I hear my mom speak Chamorro with either a friend or one of her family members, I still have to 'amen' the older Chamorro people that we know, and the list goes on, so I'd say that the island culture is definitely present all the way over here in Virginia," she said. "Most of my mom's family lives on Tinian. I can't even count how many times I've been to Tinian, I've been there quite a few times. I've also spent time on Saipan as well, but Guam, not so much."

Ingram is proud of her home island but always has trouble explaining where the Marianas are and what is a Chamorro.

"When I tell people that I am half black, half Chamorro, I always get 'Chamo-what?' Most people on the West Coast know where Guam is but now that I'm in Virginia, a lot of people have no idea where it's at since the East Coast is so far from the Pacific Ocean," she said.

2009 Half Marathon Championship

PHOTOS and TEXT By MARK RABAGO

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel is handed a cup of water by Northern Marianas Athletics' Kay Moses.

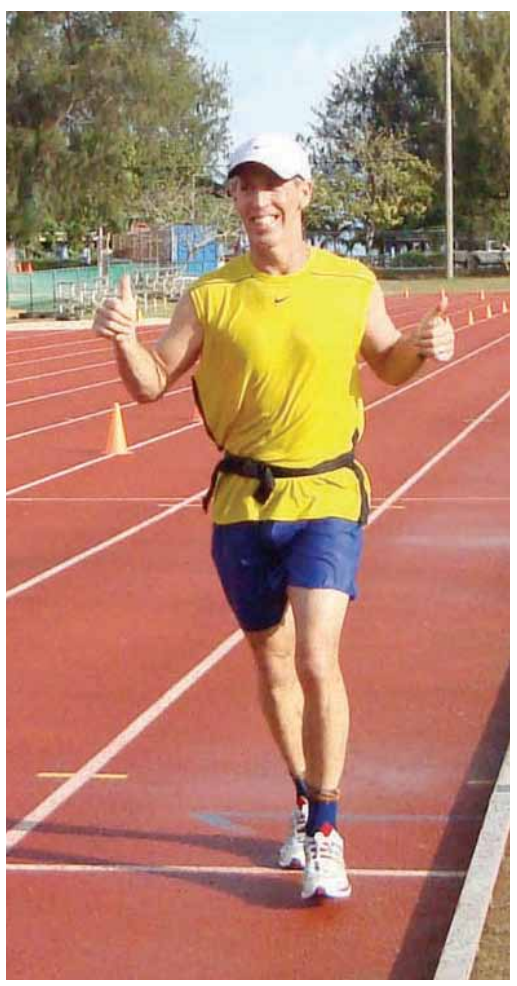
Half Marathon Championship winner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel is flanked by runners-up Bae Jum Keum, left, and Ronald Villafria after the three completed the 21-kilometer race that started and ended at the Oleai track and field last Saturday.

The "Barefooted Baron" Chang Whan Jang, left, and Quincy Johnson finished fourth and fifth respectively in last Saturday's 2009 Half Marathon Championship.

Manny Sitchon gestures as he completes the half marathon in 2:11:52.

Northern Marianas Athletics' Kay Moses, left, talks to Brad Ruszala as he sips into his power gel pack.

Yosh Gabaldon checks the earphones of his i-pod as he crosses the finish line with a time of 2:14:57.



Joshua Berger makes a double thumbs up sign as he is about to complete the half marathon course.

John Douglas is all smiles after reaching the finish line at the Oleai track and field facility.

Former Saipan resident and now frequent visitor Dawn Hammermeister smiles as she is about to pass the water station across the Oleai track and field.

NMC Foundation Open set for June 13

To advance post secondary education in the CNMI, golfers will once again be meeting on the links at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort for the 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for June 13, 2009. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hawks advance with one final blowout

The final blowout went to Atlanta, so it's the Hawks who'll get a shot at LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. **24**

Red Sox stuns Ol'Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Red Sox pulled of a 2-1 upset over the league-leading Ol'Aces in the Major division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Second baseman Craig Aguon scored the winning run on a wild pitch from Jeremy Lizama to hand Ol'Aces its first loss of the season.

Despite the defeat, Ol'Aces still leads the league with a 10-1 mark, but the Red Sox (9-2) and three other teams are fast catching up. The Hustlers are half a game behind Ol'Aces with their 10-2 slate, the Jets hold a 9-2 mark, and the Dragons have an 8-3 slate.

Neither the Red Sox nor Ol'Aces scored in the first four innings of the game, as Lizama was all business on the mound, tallying eight strikeouts. Ol'Aces pitcher Keene Guerrero also held his ground, striking out seven.

Ol'Aces made it first to the scoreboard at the top of the fifth inning with shortstop Jessie Brel reaching home plate on a passed ball. Earlier, Guerrero struck out leadoff batter Zachary Yamagishi and then ended the top of the fifth inning with another strikeout for the former's ninth in the game.

Red Sox tied the game at the bottom of the fifth with first baseman Nathan Sablan scoring on an Ol'Aces error.

At the top of the last inning, Ol'Aces' first two batters were beaten to first, while Guerrero struck out the third batter for the third out.

Lizama answered at the bottom of the last inning with a strikeout on leadoff batter Jobe Reyes and then walked Aguon. Catcher Brett Halstead was beaten to first, but not before Aguon advanced to second.

Aguon moved to third on a passed ball, while teammate Alex Monkeya was at-bat. Then Lizama committed a costly error, allowing Aguon to reach home plate for the game-winning run.

See RED SOX on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Jets' Tristan Javier dives to home plate and collides with Twins catcher during their game in the Major division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Samoana raring to wear CNMI colors

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mercer University incoming freshman forward Samoana Ingram hopes to one day represent the CNMI in future basketball competitions.

In an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, the 6'1" North Stafford High School standout said wearing the Commonwealth colors has been one of many dreams she wants to fulfill in basketball.

"If it didn't conflict with any other basketball commitments, then without a doubt! Being able to represent where I come from would be an honor," she said.

Ingram averaged 18.1 points and 12.6 rebounds per game en route to receiving First Team All Commonwealth District honors in her senior year at North Stafford.

The daughter of Damon Ingram and the former Jovita Hofschneider of Tinian was also named the Free Lance Star All-Area Athlete in her senior campaign.

Asked what her reaction was to receiving a scholarship from the NCAA Division I school, Ingram said she can't even explain the feeling but that it was pure satisfaction.

Ingram

She added that she is willing to do everything in her power to excel in the college level.

"I'm not the type of player to have numbers for my expectations. Next year I plan to work as hard as I can. I plan to establish the correct

See SAMOANA on Page 26

Paire foils MP United sweep of U13

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United won two U13 games in the boys division, while Paire FC took the other one in Week 4 (April 25) of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League.

MPU-2 gave the club its first win of the day after slipping past Tan Holdings FC, 3-2.

Tan Holdings drew first blood on Alex Limes' goal in the 12th

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Paire FC U13 player is seen here dribbling against an IFC player in one of their games in the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. Paire FC foiled a MP United sweep in the boys U13 division in Week 4 with a 4-1 win over MPU-3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Men's third placers Joseph Santos, Lito Mendoza, NMBF president Shirley Kim, champions Saul Gargallo and Macoi Aguda, and runners-up Hapi Gabriel, and Robert Reyes pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament Sunday night at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Winners in IT&E badminton doubles feted

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Northern Marianas Badminton Federation handed out medals to the Top 3 placers in the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament during the awards ceremony Sunday night at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

Receiving their hardware after the seven-week-end tournament were Men's A champions Macoi Aguda and Saul Gargallo. Hapi Gabriel, who hosted the awards ceremony, and Robert Reyes settled for silver medals after losing to Aguda and Gargallo in the finals, 21-15, 21-9. Completing the Top 3 finish in the centerpiece Men's A division were bronze medalists Lito Mendoza

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